



Warren Hastings

INDIAN RECORDS SERIES

**FORT WILLIAM—INDIA HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE**

**AND OTHER CONTEMPORARY PAPERS
RELATING THERETO**

(PUBLIC SERIES)

VOL. VII : 1773-1776

**EDITED BY
R.P. PATWARDHAN**

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GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

I am happy to place before the public Vol. VII of the *Fort William—India House Correspondence*. Edited by Professor R.P. Patwardhan, it covers the correspondence which passed in the Public Department between the Court of Directors in London and the Governor General in Council at Fort William in Bengal during the period 1773-76.

I must admit that there has been inordinate delay in the publication of this volume. This is mainly due to printing difficulties. For this delay as well as for any lapses in the present work, I offer my apologies to the readers.

My thanks are due to the Director General of Archaeology, Government of India, for supplying photographic copies of certain portraits and paintings, and to the Calcutta Historical Society and the Trustees of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, for permitting us to reproduce some of the illustrations included in this volume.

I am also thankful to my colleagues Kumari D.G. Keswani who supervised the work as Assistant Director of Archives, and Shri D.L. Kaka, Shri Satyapal and Shrimati R. Bardhan, for their assistance in scrutinizing the manuscript and seeing it through the press.

S.N. PRASAD
*Director of Archives,
Government of India.*

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CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY¹

1773-76

<i>Period</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
April 1772-March 1773	Colebrooke, George	Sullivan, Laurence
April 1773-October 1773	Boulton, Henry Crabb ²	Wheler, Edward
October 1773-March 1775	Wheler, Edward	Harrison, John
April 1775-March 1776	Harrison, John	Roberts, John
April 1776-March 1777	Roberts, John	James, William

• DIRECTORS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY³

1773-76

Becher, Richard	..	..	1775-78, 1780 (disq. March 1781) October 1781-84, 1786-89, 1791-94, 1796-99, 1801-04, 1806-09 (d. January 1810).
Boddam, Charles	...	...	1769, 1772-75, 1777-80, 1782-84 (d. December 1784).
Booth, Benjamin	...	...	1767-70, 1772-73, 1775-78, 1780-83,
Boulton, Henry Crabb	...	...	1753-61, 1763-65, 1767-70, 1772-73 (d. October 1773).
Burgess, John Smith	..	...	1773-74, 1776-79, 1781-84, 1786-89, 1791-94, 1796-99, 1801-03 (d. May 1803).

1. The particulars given here and in the lists that follow are based on the correspondence contained in this and other volumes of the series, *Alphabetical List of Directors of the East India Company from 1758 to 1858* compiled by C.H. and D. Phillips and Published in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (October 1941); and *List of the Heads of Administrations in India and of the India Office in England* (Imperial Record Department, 1939).

2. On the death of H.C. Boulton, the Court, on 12 October 1773, appointed Edward Wheler, Chairman and John Harrison, Deputy Chairman.

3. In this list the figures indicate the years of Election to the Court of Directors and, unless the name of the month in any particular year is given, the month is assumed to be that of April when the general election was held. [Throughout the period the year of office was from April to the following April.]

Chambers, Charles Jr.	...	...	1770, 1773.
Cockburn, James	...	...	1767-68, 1770-72.
Colebrooke, George	...	...	1767-70, 1772.
Cuming, George	...	...	1764-67, 1769-72, December 1773-77, 1779-82, 1785-87 (d. December 1787).
Dempster, George	..	...	1769, 1772.
Dethic, Thomas	...	...	1772.
Devaynes, William	...	...	1770-75, 1777-80, 1782-85, 1787-90, 1792-95, 1797-1800, 1802-05.
Ducane, Peter Jr.	..	..	1753, 1764, 1766-69, 1771-73.
Fletcher, Henry	...	...	1769, 1771-75, 1777-80, 1782-83 (resigned November 1783).
Freeman, William George	..	...	1769, 1774-76, 1778-81.
Gregory, Robert	..	...	1769-72, 1775-78, 1780-82, (resigned August 1782).
Hall, Richard	...	...	1773-74, 1776-79, 1781-84, 1786 (d. December 1786).
Harrison, John	...	...	1758-61, 1763-66, 1768-71, 1773-77, 1779-82.
Hawkesworth, John	..	...	1773 (d. November 1773).
Hurlock, Joseph	...	..	1768, 1770-73.
James, William	...	...	1768-71, 1773-76, 1778-81, 1783 (d. December 1783).
Lascelles, Peter	...	...	1770, 1772-75.
Manship, John	...	...	1755-58, 1762-1765, 1767, 1769-72, December 1773-77, 1779-82, 1784-87, 1789-92. 1794-97, 1799-1802, 1804-07, 1809 (disq. May 1809).
Michie, John	...	...	1770-75, 1777-80, 1783-86, 1788 (d. November 1788).
Moffat, James	...	...	1774-77, 1779-82, December 1784-85, 1787-90 (d. Dec- ember 1790).
Peach, Samuel	...	...	1773-74, 1776-79, 1781 (disq. October 1781).
Pigou, Frederick	...	..	1758-61, 1763-66, 1768-71, 1773-77.
Roberts, John	...	...	1764-67, 1769-72, 1775-78, November 1780-83, 1785-88, 1790-93, 1795-98, 1800-03, 1805-08.
Rous, Thomas Bates	...	...	1773-74, 1776-79.

Rumbold, Thomas	...	...	1772, 1775-77 (resigned August 1777).
Savage, Henry	...	...	1755-58, 1760-62, 1764-67, 1770-77, 1779-82.
Smith, John	...	...	1773-74, 1776-79, 1781-84, 1786-89, 1791-94, 1796-99, 1801-03 (d. May 1803).
Smith, Nathaniel	...	...	1774-75, 1777-80, 1782-85, 1787-90, 1792-94 (d. May 1794).
Sparkes, Joseph	...	...	1773-74, 1776-79, 1781-84, 1786-89, (d. March 1790).
Stables, John	...	...	1774-76, 1778-81 (disq. October 1781).
Sullivan, Laurence	...	...	1755-58, 1760-61, 1763-64, 1769, 1771-72, 1778-81, 1783-85 (d. February 1786).
Tatem, George	...	...	1772-74, 1776-79, 1781-84, July 1786, 1788-91, 1793-96, 1798-1801.
Wheler, Edward	..	...	1765-68, 1770-76.
Wier, Daniel	...	...	1768-76.
Wombwell, George	...	...	1766-68, 1775-78, 1780 (d. November 1780).
Woodhouse, John	...	...	1768-71, 1773-76, 1778-81, January 1784-86, 1788-90, (disq. February 1791).

**GOVERNOR OF THE PRESIDENCY OF
FORT WILLIAM, BENGAL
1773-74**

Hastings, Warren ... 15 April 1772—20 October 1774.

**GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF
FORT WILLIAM, BENGAL
1774-76**

Hastings, Warren . . . 20 October 1774 - 8 February
1785.

**MEMBERS OF BOARD, FORT WILLIAM, BENGAL*
1773-76**

Aldersey, William	...	...	...	1766-74.
Barker, Robert		...		1773.
Barwell, Richard	..		.	1770-84.
Clavering, Lt.-Gen. John (Commander-in-Chief)			.	1774-77.
Dacres, Philip Milner	.			1772-74.
Francis, Philip	..			1774-81
Goodwin, Henry			.	1772-73.
Graham, John	...			1772-74.
Grueber, Nicholas	...	...		1774.
Hastings, Warren	...		...	1772-85.
Lambert, William	...			1773-74.
Lawrell, James	..	...		1772-74.
Monson, George	..	...	...	1774-76.
Reed, John		..	...	1770-74.
Vansittart, George	..			1773.

* The years mentioned against the members do not necessarily indicate the entire terms of their membership but merely show that they were members during the period stated as verified from the correspondence.

GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT ST. GEORGE

1773-76

Du Pré, Josias	...	...	31 January 1770—1 February 1773.
Wynch, Alexander	...	...	1 February 1773—10 December 1775.
Pigot, George, Lord (2nd time)	..	...	10 December 1775—24 August 1776 (Placed under arrest by the majority of the Council).
Stratton, George	...	...	24 August 1776—31 August 1777 (Usurped the Government. Suspended.)

GOVERNOR OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY

1773-76

Hornby, William	26 February 1771--1 January 1784.
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INTRODUCTION

THIS volume contains the correspondence of the years 1773-1776 (both inclusive). These four years form a most important period in British Indian history, because it was during these years that the foundations were laid of an ordered system of government by the East India Company, which was to save Bengal from the tribulations of the preceding fifteen years.

These tribulations arose from the unusual opportunities for 'getting rich quick' which opened out before the servants of the Company in Bengal after 1757. Even before 1757 there were considerable opportunities of this nature, which attracted men to the service of the Company, notwithstanding the low salaries attached to it. There were opportunities of gain in the provision of the Company's investment. More important was the private trade which, under certain limitations, the Company's servants were permitted to carry on on their own account while in service. In 1717, the Company had obtained by Imperial *farrman* the right to carry on their export and import trade duty-free, and under cover of this *farrman* the Company's servants were passing their own private trade duty-free, thus obtaining an unfair advantage over other competitors--Indian as well as European. Alivardi Khan had tried to curb this illegal use of the *dastak*, but it continued, and formed one of the circumstances which raised Sirajud-Daulah's ire against the English in 1756.

After the overthrow of Sirajud-Daulah in 1757, the Company became the king-maker in Bengal. The Company's servants became all-powerful: they used their power as they liked, and there was none in the country who could check them. Naturally, they used their uncontrolled power to acquire as much wealth as possible. Various were the means used for this purpose, all equally ruinous to the people of the country. Those occupying the highest ranks in the Company's service used their king-making power to obtain presents and donations from the puppet rulers whom they successively set up in 1757, 1760, 1763 and 1765—presents and donations, says Orme, "have since been the foundation of several fortunes".¹ Those placed lower used their position, directly or through their agents, to oppress the weavers, and to monopolise even the inland trade of the country—an abuse which Mir Qasim dared to oppose, and lost his throne in the attempt. The licence for private trade, as has been well said, became a licence to private tyranny and terrorisation of the countryside.² The helpless ryots were forced to sell their produce to the English merchants or their agents, and shopkeepers could only buy these from the latter at prices dictated by them. Weavers were turned practically into slaves: bonds for the delivery of a certain quantity of goods, at a certain time and place, were forced on them, and they were flogged and imprisoned when

1. James Mill, *The History of British India*, vol. III, p. 135.

2. T.G.P. Spear, *The Nabobs*, p. 28.

they failed to fulfil the stipulation. In 1765, Clive obtained for the Company the *Diwani*, or the right of collecting the land revenue, of the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, from the Mughal Emperor. The actual collections, however, were still left in the hands of Indian agents. When the English received the grant of the *Diwani* their first consideration seems to have been the raising of as large sums from the country as could be collected. This led to further oppression of the ryots. In the belief that if Englishmen were appointed to supervise the collections they might be able to check the existing abuses, Supervisors were appointed in the different districts in 1769. This, however, proved a remedy worse than the disease. The Supervisors themselves became, in Hastings' words, "Sovereigns or Proconsuls of the several divisions of the Province", "rulers, heavy rulers of the people", monopolising the trade of their districts. The result of all this was that a province which had been prosperous and flourishing but a few years before began to be depopulated, trade languished, land revenue could be raised only with difficulty, and there was a falling off in the quantity and quality of the Company's investment. And, as if to complete the ruin of the country, a terrible famine fell upon Bengal in 1770, carrying off, it is said, one third of the population.

While Bengal was thus being laid low through human and natural causes, the Company's finances were in no better condition. The high hopes which had been raised in England by the news of the *Diwani*—which had resulted in the State claiming a share in the Bengal revenues in the shape of an annual tribute of £400,000, and had led the Company to raise its dividends to 12½ per cent—were soon dashed to the ground. While the Company's servants made huge fortunes and returned to England as 'Nabobs', the Company itself was reduced to such straits that it had to apply to the Bank of England and the British Government for loans. The conviction was now borne in upon the Directors that their affairs stood in need of thorough reform, that their own profits depended on the prosperity of the ryots and weavers of Bengal, and that it was necessary to check the extravagance and oppression of their servants and the servants' agents in Bengal. They entrusted Warren Hastings with the task. The genius of Warren Hastings proved equal to the task, and it was during the early years of his rule that he laid, firmly and truly, those foundations on which the majestic structure of the later British administration of India was raised.

This, then, is the main interest of the period covered by the correspondence contained in the present volume. But that is not all : it was this period which witnessed "the first assumption of control over Indian affairs by the British Government" in the shape of the Regulating Act, which in turn led to the epic struggle between Warren Hastings and the majority of his Council—a struggle for which the Rohilla War and the celebrated Nandakumar case provided only two of the principal grounds. Also it was during this period that the first clash occurred between the Company and that Indian power with which it was destined to contest the dominion of the Indian sub-continent—the Marathas.

II

Reform Work

The work of reform, with which Warren Hastings found himself charged when he took up the duties of the Governor of Bengal on 13 April 1772, consisted of the following :—

(1) To stand forth as the *Diwan* : in other words, to do away with the system, which had prevailed since 1765, whereby the Company received the revenues of the three provinces, while the actual work of collection was carried on by Indian agents under Muhammad Riza Khan, as *Naib Diwan* for Bengal, and Raja Shitab Rai, in a similar capacity, for Bihar;

(2) To conduct an inquisition into the conduct of Muhammad Riza Khan, widely believed to have been guilty of peculation and of having monopolised supplies of rice during the famine;

(3) To cut at the root of oppression by throwing the inland trade open to all (subject to such duties as may be levied by the Company), by giving the weaver freedom to work for whomsoever he would, and by restoring discipline and checking luxury and extravagance among the Company's servants;

(4) To effect economy in civil and military expenditure; and

(5) To keep away from entangling alliances, taking care only to protect the existing territories of the Company.

(1) *Standing forth as Diwan*

When the Directors, in their letter of 28 August 1771, recorded their resolution to 'stand forth as *Diwan*', they had only been led to this resolution by their disappointment at the results of the *Diwani*. "...when we turn our view", they had said, "to the flourishing state of Burdwan and the encreasing revenue of that province under the immediate inspection of our servants, we cannot but conclude that the diminution of the *Dewanny* revenues must have been owing to the misconduct and malversation of those who have had the superintendency of the collections".³ "It is therefore our determination to stand forth as *Diwan*, and by the agency of the Company's servants to take upon ourselves the entire care and management of the revenues".⁴ With regard to the other part of the government—the *Nizamat* (or military and police matters, including criminal justice)—no change was contemplated. It was, however, considered expedient to support "some ostensible Minister in the Company's interest at the Nabob's court to transact the political affairs of the *Circar*, and interpose between the Company and the subjects of any European power in all cases wherein they may thwart our interest or encroach on our authority".⁵ In other words

3. *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol. VI, p.122, para. 20.

4. *Ibid.*, p.123, para. 21.

5. *Ibid.*, p.124, para. 24.

the double government established by Clive in 1765 was to be maintained intact with the only alteration that the collection of revenues was thenceforth to be managed directly by the Company instead of being left to Indian agency. The implementation of the policy was left to Warren Hastings, and "if the abolition of the office of *Naib Dewan* and stepping forth as principals should in any degree alarm . . . European neighbours", the Directors relied on his prudence "for removing every improper jealousy that may be entertained on this account".⁶

Warren Hastings, however, had a clearer vision. He saw that the fiction of the Nawab's government had become outworn, and that in the interests of good government and also in those of the Company, it had become necessary for the real rulers of the country to assume the sovereignty in name as well. "A divided government," he wrote on 11 July 1772, "cannot last, but must be productive of continual contest . . . For these reasons it is our duty to suppose a total change of government by degrees taking place, which shall substitute the real power which protects this country, in the place of that which claims the possession of it by a right it is unable to assert or support".⁷

The first matter to be attended to was the arrangement necessary for collection of the revenue. The *Naib Diwans* were, of course, removed. The *Khalsa* or Treasury Office was shifted from Murshidabad to Calcutta where the whole Council was to act as the supreme revenue authority, being assisted by an Indian officer styled the *Rai-Rayan*. The Supervisors were continued in the districts under the new name of Collectors, each Collector being assisted by an Indian *Diwan*. A Committee of Circuit toured the districts to make a settlement. Leases were given for five years on an annually increasing scale (it was expected that longer lease would enable the holders to improve their lands), and the lands were farmed out by public auction, preference being given, *ceteris paribus*, to old *zamindars*. The interests of the ryots were to be safeguarded by insisting on the farmers to give clear contracts or *pattas* to their tenants, with the conditions of the holding and the dues of revenue under its several heads faithfully recorded. The Collectors and their *banyans* were debarred from holding farms, and no European was to be permitted directly or indirectly to rent land in any part of the country.

Administration of civil justice went along with the collection of revenue under the Mughal constitution, and side by side with the revenue arrangements Hastings proceeded also to provide for an orderly administration of justice. This was perhaps the most beneficent of his measures, because administration of justice had become chaotic and inefficient during the immediately preceding period. In each district there were to be two courts, the *Diwani Adalat* and the *Faujdari Adalat*, the former for civil and the latter for criminal work. In the *Diwani Adalat* the Collector presided

6. Appendix I, letter from Court to Hastings, 16 April 1773, para. 10.

7. M.E. Monckton-Jones, *Warren Hastings in Bengal, 1772-1774*, p.190.

as the representative of the Company in its character as the *Diwan*. In the *Faujdarī Adalat*, the *Qazi* and the *Mufti* were the judges, but the Collector was to superintend the proceedings and to see that they were fairly and regularly conducted. In addition to these mofussil courts, there were to be two superior courts at Calcutta, the *Sadar Diwani Adalat* and the *Sadar Nizamat Adalat*. In the former the Governor, or in his absence a member of the Council, was to preside; the latter was in charge of an officer, called the *Darogha*, supposed to represent the *Nazim*, but really appointed by the President and Council. The sentences of the *Sadar Nizamat Adalat* had to receive the Nawab's formal sanction and were then returned to the district court for execution. The proceedings of this court were also subject to the control of the President and Council (similar to the control of the Collector over the mofussil *Faujdarī Adalat*), the ostensible reason being that "the Company's Administration in the Character of the King's Dewan, may be satisfied that the Decrees of Justice, on which both the welfare and the safety of the country so materially depend, are not injured or perverted by the Effects of partiality or Corruption".

By drawing the *Khalisa* and the courts of justice to Calcutta Hastings made Calcutta the capital of Bengal. Hastings knew full well that the shifting of criminal court to Calcutta was an act of usurpation, but it was unavoidable. Consciously and with a set purpose he proceeded to take sovereign power into the hands of the Company. Writing to Sir George Colebrooke on 7 March 1773 he said, "Every intermediate power is removed, and the sovereignty of the country wholly and absolutely vested in the Company".

Hastings' arrangements with regard to the revenues received the Directors' entire approbation.⁸ As the Supervisors, however, had not proved a success, they ordered their withdrawal, and desired the Governor and Council to "substitute some other plan for making yourselves acquainted with the exact value of every district and for giving relief to the inhabitants, till we shall be able to send you complete regulations for conducting this important branch of our affairs which we have now under consideration".⁹ These orders necessitated a reconstruction of the system established in 1772. A new plan was accordingly drawn up. According to this, each district was to be placed under the control of an Indian *Naib Diwan*; a number of districts were to form a Division, the three Provinces being divided into six such Divisions; at the head of each Division, except Calcutta, there was to be a 'Provincial Council', consisting of a Chief (who should be a member of the Calcutta Council) and four senior servants, to be assisted by a *Diwan*. The organisation for the Calcutta Division was slightly different: it was called the Calcutta Committee of Revenue, and was to consist of two members of Council and three senior servants. These changes in the revenue arrangements necessitated corresponding

8. Appendix I, letter from Court to Hastings, 16 April 1773, para. 5.

9. Letter from Court, 7 April 1773, para. 45.

changes in the judicial arrangements : the *Naib Diwans* were now to hold the *Diwani Adalats* in the districts, and an appeal lay from them to the provincial *Sadar Adalats* which were now constituted to form a link between the mofussil and the headquarters *Diwani* courts.

The institution of Provincial Councils was meant by Hastings to be merely a temporary expedient; "as a fixed and established regulation, I am apprehensive that it will be attended with consequences oppressive to the inhabitants, prejudicial to the revenue and ruinous to the trade of the country".¹⁰ Ultimately, the control of revenue collections must be centralised in Calcutta; but this must be the work of time. The Directors, on their part, were as little pleased with the system of Provincial Councils as Hastings himself : "We for the present confirm the appointments of your subordinate Councils of Revenue. . . . But we recommend it to you to consider attentively whether these Boards are capable of answering the purposes intended by their institution; and particularly, whether by a constant residence in any one part of a district large as those into which the provinces are now divided, they will be able so to superintend the objects committed to their care as to prevent the Company's revenues from suffering improper diminution and the natives from being oppressed by undue exactions".¹¹

The Provincial Councils were accordingly abolished in 1781.

(2) *Inquiries into the Conduct of Muhammad Riza Khan, etc.*

In the letter dated 29 August 1771, in which the Directors declared their resolve 'to stand forth as *Duan*', they also directed an inquiry into the conduct of Muhammad Riza Khan. Muhammad Riza Khan had been *Naib* of Dacca under Mir Jafar. On Mir Jafar's death in February 1765, his son and successor Najmud-Daulah being a minor, Muhammad Riza Khan was appointed *Naib Subah*, and when Clive obtained the *Diwani* for the Company from the Emperor, he was also appointed *Naib Diwan*. He had thus, as Hastings says, "enjoyed the sovereignty of the province for seven years past" when the Directors, sorely disappointed in their expectations of a golden harvest from the *Diwani* and being led to believe that he had been guilty of peculation, resolved to bring him to book. The Secret Committee of the Court gave confidential orders to Hastings to issue his own individual orders, immediately on receipt of their letter, to arrest Muhammad Riza Khan, his family and adherents, to bring them to Calcutta and not to allow them to leave the city till the inquiry was concluded. Hastings entrusted the business to Samuel Middleton, Resident at Murshidabad, and within a fortnight of the latter's assumption of office Muhammad Riza Khan was brought down to Calcutta.

The Directors had not ordered the arrest of Shitab Rai, the *Naib Diwan* of Bihar, but as he held at Patna an office similar to Muhammad

10. G. R. Gleig, *Memoirs of the Life of Warren Hastings*, vol. I, pp. 285-86.

11. *Letter from Court*, 5 April 1776, para. 11.

Riza Khan's at Murshidabad, he, too, was arrested and brought to Calcutta for trial. The Directors approved of this action in their letter of 16 April 1773, as Shitab Rāi "had been too long connected with Mahomed Reza Khan to be independent of him; but if that had not been the case, it would have been absurd to continue a Naib Dewan in the province of Bahar after abolishing that office in Bengal".¹²

The Directors had advised Hastings to make use of Nandakumar, Muhammad Riza Khan's rival, in the inquiry against the latter. Nandakumar's son, Raja Gurudas, was accordingly appointed *Diwan* of the Nawab's household, Munni Begam, the widow of Mir Jafar, being at the same time appointed as the Nawab's guardian. The post of *Naib Subah* was abolished.

The trial of Shitab Rai began in January 1773, and that of Muhammad Riza Khan a little later. The former took very little time : there was really nothing against him, and he had been put on trial merely for reasons of policy. He was honourably acquitted, and appointed *Rai-Rayan* and *Naib Subah* for Bihar. He, however, died soon after, largely, it was supposed, from illness brought on by the anxieties and humiliation of his imprisonment.

Muhammad Riza Khan's trial was more protracted. There were several allegations against him—monopolising rice at the time of the famine; embezzlement of the Nawab's stipends; and failure to account for a large sum received by him while *Naib* of Dacca under Mir Jafar. Hastings believed him to be guilty, but despite recourse to 'the abilities, observation and active malignity' of Maharaja Nandakumar, it was impossible to prove beyond doubt any of the charges brought against him.¹³ To the first Muhammad Riza Khan could reply that it was his duty during the famine to look to the provisioning of the city of Murshidabad and the troops; with regard to the second, the only amount which after a great deal of delay could be charged against him was the paltry sum of 2,62,000 rupees, which he found no difficulty in accounting for; as regards the third, he averred that the contract on which the charge was founded was extorted from him under duress at a time when through the machinations of Nandakumar he was under confinement and considered his life to be in danger, and that it was later annulled by letters, which he produced, under the sign manual of Nawab Mir Jafar.¹⁴ The Directors agreed with the President and Council that no charge could be substantiated against him, though they felt doubtful about the last : "The general words under the handwriting of Meer Jaffier, supposing both the papers authentick, are of little importance and can never be construed to annul the positive agreement, which appears under the seal of Mahomed Reza Khan; and as to his plea of having executed that instrument by compulsion merely to gain time and to save his

12. Appendix I, *letter from Court to Hastings*, 16 April 1773, para. 6.

13. Monckton-Jones, *op. cit.*, pp. 192-95.

14. *Ibid.*, p. 194.

life, it wants every necessary proof to render it effectual".¹⁵ However, they were prepared to suspend their claim to the arrears of the Dacca revenue¹⁶ and directed that as he had been acquitted, and as they felt a repugnance, because of the unworthy part played by Nandakumar in his case, to the continuance of his (Nandakumar's) son in the high office of *Rai-Rayan* of the Province, Muhammad Riza Khan might be appointed to that office and Raja Gurudas to some other office of less importance.¹⁷ (The Directors were under a misapprehension that the office held by Raja Gurudas was that of *Rai-Rayan*.) On the strength of these orders, Francis and his party, who then formed the majority of the Council, appointed Muhammad Riza Khan to the office of *Naib Subah*, which they revived, and transferred the supreme *Nizamat Adalat* from Calcutta to Murshidabad, thus undoing for a time the work of Warren Hastings. The Directors approved of the appointment of Muhammad Riza Khan as *Naib Subah*, since they found that the finances of the Nawab had been mismanaged while Muhammad Riza Khan was under suspension, and since "official experience qualified him for so high a station, in a more eminent degree than any other native, with whom the Company has been connected"; but they were not prepared to approve of the arrangements for criminal justice without further consideration.¹⁸

Inquiry into the conduct of Muhammad Riza Khan was not the only inquiry entrusted to Warren Hastings by the Directors. They required him to conduct inquiries into frauds committed in the provision of their investments, the monopolising of the inland trade in salt, betelnut and tobacco by their servants in contravention of their repeated orders, etc. Hastings disliked these 'retrospections', because, as he said, they armed his hand against every man and every man's against him.¹⁹ Moreover, they interfered with more urgent and essential work. In their letter of 1 March 1773, the President and Council drew the Court's attention to "the extent and variety of the objects you have lately assigned as subjects of minute inquiry for us" and begged that the Court "be pleased to make such allowances for delay in the execution as the necessity of the cases require".²⁰ With regard to at least one inquiry, that regarding the monopolising of the trade in salt, etc. by the so-called Society of Trade, the Council was able to report as early as 17 January 1774 that all dues from the Society had been cleared by that time.²¹

(3) *Restoration of Discipline and fostering the Country's Prosperity*

Inquisition into the conduct of the guilty was a comparatively easy task. Not so easy was the establishment of a new system which would

15. *Letter from Court*, 3 March 1775, para. 43.

16. *Ibid.*, para. 44.

17. *Ibid.*, paras. 46-7

18. *Letter from Court*, 24 December 1776, paras. 30-6.

19. Gleig, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 264.

20. *Letter to Court*, 1 March 1773, para. 63.

21. *Letter to Court*, 17 January 1774, para. 18.

prevent a repetition of the abuses from which Bengal had suffered during the last fifteen years, and would foster the prosperity of the country. In this field Hastings could achieve only limited success. He realised, no doubt, that the nature of the Company's rule had undergone a change; that it was not "as formerly, confined to the little settlement of Calcutta and the factories of trade but takes in all the interests and concerns of a great nation with every department in it new and many yet undefined";²² and that the "ancient form of Government, which was instituted for the provision of the investment, the sale of the Company's exported cargoes, and the despatch of their ships" could not be applied "to the dominion of an extensive kingdom, the collection of a vast revenue, the command of armies, and the direction of a great political system".²³ He saw also that good government could not be assured except by departing from the old system under which the servants of the Company were paid meagre salaries, but were allowed to earn many times the amount of the salaries through private trade and other means; and he urged (no doubt as only the first step) that the servants of the highest grade—the members of the Council—should be confined to Calcutta, paid adequate salaries and at the same time debarred from carrying on trade.²⁴ The beginning of the transformation of the body of the Company's servants into a true civil service—well paid, forbidden to augment their salaries by any other means, and bound by a sense of professional honour to their official duty—had, however, to wait till Lord Cornwallis' time. In the meanwhile, the Directors adhered to the view that if their servants were returning home, after a few years' service in Bengal, loaded with enormous wealth (gained, no doubt, at the cost of their masters and of the people of Bengal), this was the result of their utter selfishness which led them to neglect their masters' business for their own, and their lack of discipline and character; and that all that was necessary was that the authorities on the spot—and the Governor specially—should enforce strict discipline and check the extravagance and dissipation of their servants, the Governor setting a good example in his own person. Their letter of 7 April 1773 vents their indignation against their servants: "23 . . . And, therefore, when oppression pervades the whole country, when youths have been suffered, with impunity to exercise sovereign jurisdiction over the natives and to acquire rapid fortunes by monopolizing of commerce, it cannot be a wonder to us or to yourselves, that *dadney* merchants do not come forward to contract with the Company, that the manufactures find their way through foreign channels or that our investments are at once enormously dear and of a debased quality". 25. . . . the first step must be to restore perfect obedience and due subordination to your administration. Our Governor and Council must reassume and exercise their delegated powers upon every just occasion, punish delinquents, cherish the meritorious, discountenance that luxury and

22. *Letter to Court*, 1 March 1773, para. 75.

23. Gleig, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 290.

24. *Ibid.*, p. 388.

dissipation which to the reproach of government prevailed in Bengal. Our President, Mr. Hastings, we trust, will set the example of temperance, economy and application, and upon this we are 'sensible much will depend'".

The Directors had, indeed, been writing in this strain since 1767. They failed to see that the change in the character of the Company necessitated the creation of a proper civil service, and that while adequate salaries might not be a guarantee against corruption, their absence was almost an invitation and a sanction to it.

Warren Hastings, as has been hinted above, cannot be called the creator of pure administration in Bengal, but he did a great deal towards that end. The regular judicial system which he established was in itself a boon to the poor ryot. His revenue regulations too imposed various checks on the Collector's powers : the Collector's decrees were to be valid only under the Company's seal which the boldest would hardly dare to use for purposes of extortion on his own account; sepoys were not to be employed in the collections except in urgent cases and by warrant under the public seal; the Collector was forbidden to engage in money-lending or to deal in grain; and his servants or agents were debarred from farming any lands.²⁵

Among the abuses which had aroused the Directors' indignation against their servants the most prominent had been their monopolising the inland trade of the country, and the oppressions practised on the weavers, ostensibly for the provision of the Company's investment. They had, therefore, issued orders in April 1771 for throwing the trade open to all. The *dastaks*, which had occasioned so much trouble in the time of Mir Qasim and earlier, were accordingly withdrawn from 12 April 1773.

But the unjust monopoly of the Company's servants was not the only evil from which the trade of the country suffered. It was subject to vexatious tolls at numerous *chaukis*, imposed by the local *zamindars*. Hastings, in March 1773, issued new customs regulations, by which the petty *chaukis* were abolished, only seven being retained, and a single uniform duty of 2½% to be paid by all alike—the Company, its servants, Europeans of any race and Indian merchants—was substituted for the numerous and heavy tolls which obtained previously, so that with the payment of this small duty goods could 'pass unmolested to the extremities of the province'.²⁶

The question of investments was more intricate. Here the choice lay between the *gumashtah* system and the *dadni* or contract system. Under the former, *gumashtahs*, the Company's accredited agents, advanced money to the weaver to buy the necessary materials, etc. on his pledging the produce of his looms to them, while under the latter system the Company obtained its goods by contract with merchants, who in turn made advances to the weavers and procured the cloths from them. Of

25. Monckton-Jones, *op. cit.*, pp. 259, 274.

26. Gleig, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 304.

late, the former system had been in vogue in Bengal, and it had been productive of gross oppression. As Hastings wrote, "The Company, and their collectors and chiefs of factories are the only merchants of the country; they force advances of money on the weavers, and compel them to give cloths in return at an arbitrary valuation, which is often no more than the cost of the materials, so that the poor weaver only lives by running in debt to his employers, and thus becomes their slave for life".²⁷ The weaver, in order to obtain the just price for his cloth, sometimes attempted to sell it to others, particularly to the agents of the Dutch and French Companies. This led the English Company's *gumashtah* to call in the Company's authority to set peons over the weaver to watch him, and at times to cut the piece out of the loom when nearly finished. And yet, with all this oppression of the weaver there was no real gain to the Company. The benefit of lower prices was balanced by large amounts of bad debts. "When the weaver failed to supply the due amount or quality of cloth dictated by his contract the gomastah entered the deficit against him in the Company's books as a debt to be worked off. But this was apt to result only in his increased inability to accomplish the full tale of the next engagement, and these arrears, instead of being worked off, increased against him season by season; the prospect of their acquittance grew constantly more remote, and the Company's books were loaded with the vain and deceptive show of them".²⁸ It was for these reasons that the Directors had ordered the Bengal Government to "revert to the former practice of providing Investments by contracts with Dadney Merchants; invite as great a number of Merchants to deliver Proposals, and make your contracts as extensive as possible...We assure ourselves that by such means the manufactures of Bengal will soon be restored to their former degree of fineness and estimation".²⁹

The Directors' orders had been received by Cartier, Hastings' predecessor, and his Council. They had demurred, pointing out various difficulties, that, as matters stood, the Company would not benefit from competitive proposals, since these tended to combine the *dadni* merchants, thereby enabling them to impose their own terms on the producers; that the only result would be a debasement of the manufactures and an increase in their price; that the balances due from the weavers would, for the most part, be lost; and that there could be no certainty that the merchants would furnish the full quantity stipulated. For these reasons Cartier and his Council had refrained from giving effect to the Directors' orders.³⁰

Hastings, too, was at first inclined to hold the same view. At Madras he had worked the *gumashtah* system with excellent results, and the Directors' orders seem to have filled him at first with dismay: "I observe that the Court of Directors have ordered the gomastahs to be withdrawn", he wrote in February 1772, "and the investment to be provided by dadney

27. *Ibid.*, p. 305.

28. Monckton-Jones, *op. cit.*, p. 221.

29. *Ibid.*, p. 220.

30. *Ibid.*, *op. cit.*, p. 237.

merchants. This is a little singular, and rather discouraging to the hopes which I had entertained of receiving the commendations of my employers, for an arrangement which is the very reverse of these orders".³¹ He seems, however, to have changed his mind a little later, and to have thought that though the investment would be dearer, and perhaps inferior in quality, in the beginning as a result of the change in policy, ultimately it would multiply the number of manufacturers and increase the trade of Bengal. Accordingly, he issued a proclamation in May 1773 that "all weavers and manufacturers should be at full liberty to work for whom they pleased and on no pretence whatever be obliged to receive advances against their inclination either from the Company or private merchants", and that proposals would be received "from all native merchants who might be willing to contract with the Company for any quantity of goods (not amounting to less than 20,000 rupees)".³² Further it was "resolved that if any covenanted servant should attempt to force advances upon the weavers, or exercise any undue authority to make them enter into engagements or work against their will, he should be suspended from your service".³³ None knew so well as Hastings, however, that it was one thing to proclaim a policy of freedom, and quite another to see it translated into practice. "There is such a spirit of despotism and servitude rooted in the dispositions of the people of Bengal, that it is the most difficult point that can be imagined to check the one or prevail on the meaner orders of the people to accept of their freedom".³⁴

The new policy does not appear to have been a great success. Its result was further increase in the prices. The part of their investment in which the Directors were most interested was silk piece-goods and raw silk, specially the latter. Repeated orders were accordingly issued to give the greatest encouragement to the cultivator of the mulberry tree and to those employed as winders.³⁵ The new mode of winding silk, after the manner of Wiss and Robinson,³⁶ was also to be introduced wherever possible, and utmost efforts were to be made to increase the consignments of this 'valuable branch of national commerce'.³⁷ In March 1773 the President and Council reported that the new mode of winding was making progress, and that in the course of the year they expected their efforts to be attended with every prospect of success.³⁸ According to them, however, the decline in the silk investment had been chiefly the result of the famine in 1770, and restoring it to its former flourishing state was a matter of time and proper encouragement.³⁹ Next year, they reported that the silk investment being obtained

31. Gleig, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p.227.

32. *Letter to Court*, 16 August 1773, para. 8.

33. *Ibid.*, para. 9.

34. Gleig, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p.394.

35. *Letter from Court*, 7 April 1773, para. 30.

36. *Ibid.*, para. 42.

37. *Ibid.*, para. 64.

38. *Letter to Court*, 31 March 1773, paras. 31-2.

39. *Letter to Court*, 1 March 1773, para. 16.

that year by contract was better in quality, but the price was still high, this latter, in their opinion, being but the natural consequence of a free and open trade.⁴⁰

The Directors had another explanation of the high prices. They thought they were due to the licence allowed to the Company's servants not only to trade even in these goods which formed the Company's investment, but also to supply these goods to the Company itself. That was how the Company's investment came to be loaded with goods of poor quality, while "the French, without money or influence, filled their ships with the prime and valuable manufactories of Bengal". The negligence of their servants was also evidenced by their want of attention to the investments. The Directors, therefore, ordered that all persons in the Company's service, or under their protection, should be prohibited from trading in any of the articles which composed their investment, except for and on account of the Company, until the investment was completed; also that the sorting and packing of the goods should not be left to Indian servants, but should be done by European servants themselves.⁴¹ The former orders appear to have been interpreted in Bengal as amounting to reintroduction of the system of monopoly; the Directors, therefore, explained that the restriction against 'persons under the Company's protection' was not intended to apply to Indians in general, but only to the Company's servants, and their agents or *banyans*. The intention was that the 'investment be always provided on the best terms possible, without being obliged to purchase it of our servants, or their agents, at an advanced price'. The prices of their investment had risen so high as to inspire the fear that the Company would derive no benefit from their possessions in Bengal, but if, as the Directors were now told, all charges civil and military could be defrayed out of the resources of Bengal, 93 lakhs appropriated to commercial establishments and investments, 20 lakhs provided for other settlements and 10 lakhs for contingencies, there was no reason for any restrictions.⁴² The Directors wished it were practicable to indulge their servants in every branch of trade; 'but if attachment to their own interest should preponderate we are convinced they will have it in their power to procure better goods and more reasonable terms than can be provided for the Company. You will therefore give this particular object the most deliberate consideration before you authorize a measure of so much importance, which nothing but the greatest fidelity in our servants can render consistent with the interest of the Company'.⁴³

(4) *Economy in Civil and Military Expenditure*

The reforms mentioned in the preceding section would bring their return in course of time; for more immediate results, the Directors naturally turned to economy in expenditure. On the death of Nawab Saifud-

40. *Letters to Court*, 15 March 1774, para. 27, and 17 October 1774, para. 31.

41. *Letters from Court*, 3 March 1775, paras. 26-7, and 7 April 1773, paras. 11, 16, 22.

42. *Letter from Court*, 24 December 1776, paras. 67-70.

43. *Ibid.*, para. 74.

Daulah on 10 March 1770, the Directors had ordered a reduction in the stipends to be paid to his successor, Mubarakud-Daulah—a boy of 10 years of age—to 16 lakhs. These orders were carried out by Warren Hastings, who also made arrangements for the Nawab's household, appointing Munni Begam, the widow of Mir Jafar, as the minor Nawab's guardian, and Raja Gurudas, son of Nandakumar, as *Diwan* of the household. Another saving was carried out by Hastings when he stopped payment of the tribute of 26 lakhs which was being paid to the Emperor Shah Alam since 1765. This was approved by the Directors in their letter of 3 March 1775.⁴⁴ They agreed with Hastings that as the Emperor had left their protection and gone over to the Marathas, the tribute, if paid, would fall into their hands, and the general principles of self-preservation warranted its withholding.⁴⁵

Apart from these savings, the Directors, 'in order', as they said, 'to discover the causes and prevent the continuance of an evil which is become intolerable to us', had, in their letter of 25 March 1772, ordered an investigation into the civil as well as military charges of the Presidency 'even to the most minute particular'; and a large part of the correspondence contained in this volume is taken up with this subject. The standard of public morality was not very high in that age, and the system on which the needs of Government were supplied at the time afforded plenty of scope for abuse. It was usual for the Company's servants working in different departments to take up contracts for supplying the needs of those departments. Thus the Commissary-General for the Army himself supplies the contingencies for the Army;⁴⁶ the Superintendent of the silk filatures at Kumarkhali constructs furnaces for the factory himself;⁴⁷ the contract for the Marine stores is given to the Master Attendant;⁴⁸ the Head Surgeon obtains the contract for dieting the patients—though this is annulled by orders from the Court;⁴⁹ and the contract for maintaining the cantonments at Berhampore and Dinapore is given to Lieutenant Colonel Parker.⁵⁰ The new Council, appointed under the Regulating Act, took into consideration the question whether a Company's servant could be engaged in a contract with the Company. 'The majority were of opinion that there was no objection to his doing so—indeed his being a servant of the Company was the best pledge for the due performance of the contract— but such persons should be excepted "who from the nature of their offices might be supposed to have an influence in the disposal of contracts or who were intended as checks upon the contractors"'.⁵¹

Occasional instances of defalcation are provided by our corres-

44. *Letter from Court*, 3 March 1775, para. 32.

45. *Ibid.*, para. 35.

46. *Letter to Court*, 15 March 1774, para. 62.

47. *Letter to Court*, 17 October 1774, para. 49.

48. *Ibid.*, para. 85.

49. *Letter from Court*, 30 March 1774, para. 45.

50. *Letter to Court*, 20 November 1775, para. 57.

51. *Letter to Court*, 3 August 1775, para. 45.

pondence. The accounts of the Paymaster of the 2nd Brigade, Mr. Burgh, gave rise to suspicions, and he was summoned to Calcutta to explain them,⁵² but died on the way.⁵³ Darrell, the Storekeeper of the Works, was found to have charged the Company Rs. 5-8-0 for coolie charge per hundred maunds of *chunam*, while he in fact paid only Rs. 4-4-0.⁵⁴ His successor could obtain the same service for Rs. 2-14-0.⁵⁵ Col. Ironside, commanding officer of the 3rd Brigade, was guilty of several irregularities (*e.g.*, drawing pay for men who had been already discharged), which he at first tried to palliate, but later admitted and threw himself on the mercy of the Board.⁵⁶

The Directors, bent on economy, ordered that the sums paid by way of share in the commission on the revenues to persons not entitled to such share should be recovered from the Council which had sanctioned the payment.⁵⁷

They appointed a committee in December 1772 to consider in detail the military expenditure of Bengal and to make suggestions for its reduction. This committee came to the conclusion that 'a general and speedy reform' of the military establishment was absolutely necessary, and suggested, among other things, revival of the office of Commissary-General. The Directors accordingly appointed Maclean to that office.⁵⁸ They closely scrutinised the indents for medicines and military stores.⁵⁹ They ordered that houses belonging to the Company and not used for public business should be sold.⁶⁰ They limited the expenditure on buildings to £1,00,000 per year.⁶¹

The President and Council of Bengal—later the Governor-General and Council—did their best to carry out the Directors' orders. Measures for reduction in military expenditure, similar to those suggested by the Directors' Committee, had already been begun before the receipt of the Directors' letter.⁶² For reduction in civil expenditure, the Council had formed itself into a Board of Inspection, and begun an investigation into the several offices at the Presidency, after completing which they proposed similarly to examine the offices at the Subordinates.⁶³ One member of the Council acted as Auditor each week to see that the expenditure of each office was kept within due limits.⁶⁴ Next year some of the important

52. *Letter to Court*, 16 May 1775, paras. 34-5.

53. *Letter to Court*, 3 August 1775, para. 25.

54. *Letter to Court*, 20 March 1776, para. 46.

55. *Letter to Court*, 12 September 1776, para. 29.

56. Appendix XXX, *letter from Clavering to Court*, 17 January 1776, paras. 2-10, and *Letter to Court*, 12 September 1776, paras. 54-5.

57. *Letter to Court*, 31 March 1773, para. 8.

58. *Letter from Court*, 7 April 1773, para. 56.

59. *Ibid.*, para. 6, and 25 March 1776, para. 5.

60. *Letter from Court*, 3 March 1775, para. 74.

61. *Letter to Court*, 1 March 1773, para. 60.

62. *Letter to Court*, 10 November 1773, paras. 45-7.

63. *Letter to Court*, 1 March 1773, para. 57.

64. *Letter to Court*, 10 November 1773, para. 50.

offices at the Presidency were placed in the charge of a single member of Council with the title of 'Comptroller of the Offices at the Presidency'. His duty was "to report to the Board whenever the accounts of any office were not delivered in at the stated period; to audit the accounts and accompany them with remarks for the inspection of the Board; and to suspend by his own authority such charges as he shall judge improper".⁶⁵ The Council also stopped the work on the fortifications and other public buildings, after completing such parts of the fort as were indispensably necessary, so as to limit the expenditure on buildings to the amount prescribed by the Court.⁶⁶ The Council hoped that when all the retrenchment had been effected, the savings would be very considerable, amounting on the civil side to about 23 lakhs and on the military to over 24 lakhs.⁶⁷ They regretted, in their last letter to the Court, that they were denied the opportunity 'to participate in the satisfaction accruing from the result of their measures', as these measures really took effect only from April 1774, and they themselves would soon be suspended by the new government appointed under the Regulating Act.⁶⁸

The new government continued to carry out the policy of retrenchment, specially in the military branch, to which the new Commander-in-Chief, General Clavering, paid much attention. He found that the immensity of the expense arose not so much from the stated fixed charges as from the contingencies and ordnance stores. "There never having been any proper officer to whom indents could be made for those contingencies or stores, . . . they were *furnished at discretion and the remains never accounted for*".⁶⁹ "The custom of your service had been to comply with all indents when the signature of the colonels of brigades or the Governors was fixed to them. Hence arose the bulk of the contingencies. I have before said that they amounted to near as much as the whole aggregate expence of the establishment. The propriety of them, any more than the quantities or the prices of the things furnished, were never examined".⁷⁰ Clavering therefore induced the Board to create a Board of Ordnance, to which the direction, management and control of all ordnance stores, and the power of making contracts for them, should be entrusted. This Board met for the first time in April 1775, and seems to have effected several economies in the provision of stores.⁷¹

It was at least in part due to these economies that by 1776 the Government was able to pay off completely its bonded debt which, when Hastings took charge in April 1772, stood between a crore and a crore and a half of rupees. Since 1769 a practice had sprung up of paying for investment goods by interest notes on the Treasury. Hastings had stopped paying

65. *Letter to Court*, 15 March 1774, para. 88.

66. *Ibid.*, para. 46.

67. *Ibid.*, para. 94.

68. *Letter to Court*, 17 October 1774, para. 90.

69. Appendix XVII, *letter from Clavering to Court*, March 1775, para. 3.

70. Appendix XIX, *letter from Clavering to Court*, 24 November 1775, para. 3.

71. *Letters to Court*, 3 August 1775, paras. 37-49; 20 March 1776, paras. 50-81.

the investment contractors by notes, but in June 1773 he found the Treasury empty and had to advertise for a short-term loan, redeemable at the end of December.⁷² By November, the revenues had come in and the Treasury was in a position to pay off this debt.⁷³ Meanwhile, Barwell had put forward a plan for reducing the interest on the debt from 8% to 5%.⁷⁴ This was adopted, and by offering to repay the bonds of 1769 and 1770 they were successfully converted from 8% to 5%.⁷⁵ The financial position had improved so much by August 1774 that notice was given that the whole notes of 1771, together with interest on them, would be entirely paid off by 1 January 1775, and the Council expressed a hope that if conditions remained normal, they would be able to pay off the whole debt in the course of a few years.⁷⁶ Two months later, writing their last letter to the Court, and indulging in a natural over-optimism, the Council hoped that the whole debt would be discharged in the course of another year.⁷⁶ Actually the debt was discharged in August 1776.⁷⁷ The Directors had, in 1775, proposed a plan for reducing the rate of interest on the notes in Bengal to 4%. Their idea was to take advantage of the difficulties of people who had funds in India and wished to transfer them to Europe. If such persons would advance money to the Government in Bengal at 4%, bills on the Court of Directors, to the amount of £120,000 per year for a period of three years, would be made available to them.⁷⁸ The plan was not put into effect because by the time it reached Bengal (October 1775) it had become unnecessary, the financial position having already much improved.⁷⁹

It is noteworthy that during all these years help was being sent from Bengal to various other settlements of the Company—to Bombay, to China, to Balambangan, to Fort Marlbro' (in Sumatra) and to St. Helena. The achievement was the outcome not only of internal policy and economies, but also of a cautious foreign policy.

(5) *Foreign Policy*

The Directors sent repeated instructions to their servants in India to pursue a policy of non-aggression in respect of all Indian powers: "...it is our fixed Resolution to confine our views to the security and tranquillity of Bengal, to apply ourselves to the good management of what we possess there, to the increase of our Commerce, and the ease and happiness of the people, to avoid as much as possible all further engagements with the Country Powers, but faithfully to perform those which we already lie under".⁸⁰ In another letter they stated their objects more fully: "The

72. *Letter to Court*, 10 November 1773, para. 17.

73. *Letter to Court*, 31 March 1773, para. 40.

74. *Letter to Court*, 15 March 1774, paras. 36-8.

75. *Letter to Court*, 22 August 1774, paras. 4-5.

76. *Letter to Court*, 17 October 1774, para. 71.

77. *Letter to Court*, 12 September 1776, para. 14.

78. *Letter from Court*, 3 March 1775, paras. 127-44.

79. *Letter to Court*, 20 November 1775, para. 36.

80. *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, vol. V, p. 207, para. 16.

Dewanee of Bengal, Bahar and Orixia, with the Possessions we hold in those Provinces, are the utmost Limits of our Views on that side of India; On the Coast, the Protection of the Carnatic, and the possessions of the Circars, free from all Engagements to support the Subah of the Decan, or even without the Circars, preserving only Interest enough over any Country Power, who may hold them, to keep the French from settling in them. And on the Bombay side, the Dependencies thereof, the Possession of Salset, Bassein, and the Castle of Surat".⁸¹ Only once, in 1771, had the Directors, alarmed by the progress of the Marathas, been led to say that they might have to consider "how far we may be disposed to carry our arms beyond the bounds of our provinces, or the territories of our allies, and become the parties in an offensive war".⁸² This, however, was an isolated and temporary sentiment, and the settled policy of the Directors was that of non-aggression.

The foreign relations of the Company on the Bengal side had been settled by Clive by the treaty of Allahabad in 1765. By this treaty the Company entered into a defensive alliance with Shujaud-Daulah; in case the Company's troops were required for the Nawab's service, the extraordinary expenses were to be defrayed by him; the provinces of Kora and Allahabad were assigned to the Emperor Shah Alam, as a royal demesne, for the support of his dignity and expenses; and the Company was allowed to keep garrisons in the fort of Chunar, and in Allahabad. In 1768 certain activities of Shujaud-Daulah gave rise to suspicion in the minds of the Select Committee at Calcutta that he entertained designs of making himself independent of English support, and on 28 November they forced a treaty on him by which he engaged to reduce his troops.⁸³ But this implied no deviation from the Company's policy. A material change in the situation occurred, however, when Shah Alam, who had for a long time cherished the idea of returning to Delhi, being disappointed of English help in that project, threw himself on the support of the Marathas and left Allahabad, in May 1771, for the capital, which he entered on 6 January 1772. The Marathas were now in the same advantageous position that the Company had occupied between 1765 and 1770—that of being in control of the Emperor's person, and of being able to obtain from him any *sanads* they desired. They now obtained a grant of the provinces of Kora and Allahabad from the Emperor, and called upon the English to surrender those provinces. How to dispose of the two provinces was a problem for Warren Hastings. He decided to make them over to Shujaud-Daulah in return for a sum of money. Warren Hastings held that the jealousy which his predecessors had felt for Shujaud-Daulah was misplaced, that the Company had nothing to fear from him, and that the right policy was to strengthen, instead of weakening, him. He was, at the same time,

81. *Ibid.*, p. 240, para. 2.

82. Sir John Strachey, *Hastings and the Rohilla War*, p. 40.

83. *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, vol. V, p. 489, para. 2; Strachey, *op. cit.*, p. 40

anxious to obtain from Shuja compensation for all the expenses of any troops he might require of the Company. "It is indeed stipulated by treaty that extra charges are to be borne by the Vizier, but this is very insufficient. The pay and common *batta* of such a force are enormous... The whole expense ought to be borne by the Vizier. At the same time our alliance with him might be easily placed, as it ought to be, on a footing of more credit and satisfaction to him, and of more utility to ourselves". Shuja on his part was anxious to obtain English help for the conquest of the Rohilla country. To arrange all these matters Hastings had a conference with the Vazir at Benares in August 1773. By the treaty of Benares, which he then concluded, it was agreed that Kora and Allahabad should be made over to the Vazir on condition of his paying 50 lakhs of rupees to the Company, and that the compensation to be paid by the Vazir whenever he called for the assistance of the Company's troops should be calculated at Rs. 2,10,000 a month (instead of Rs. 1,15,000 as before).

Hastings was highly satisfied with the results of his negotiations at Benares. In a letter to Sir George Colebrooke written on 12 October 1773 he says, "I am not apt to attribute a large share of merit to my own actions, but I own that this is one of the few to which I can with confidence affix my own approbation".⁸⁴ "I have a pride", he says in another letter, "in mentioning as one of the first and most capital savings which I can truly claim as my own, the stipulation made with the Vizier for the whole estimated expense of the forces employed for his service; nor have I less satisfaction in the reduction of the Nabob's stipend, in the suspension of the King's tribute, and in the treaty money for Cora and Illahabad".⁸⁵ By the treaty of Benares Hastings had strengthened the Company's ally, the Nawab Vazir, cemented the alliance between the two, and at the same time relieved the financial necessities of the Company.

At Benares Hastings received a letter from the Emperor, asking him to remit the tribute from Bengal, and to give up Kora and Allahabad. Hastings replied that 'not a single rupee would be sent out of the province' for the tribute. The withholding of the tribute, as well as the arrangements about Kora and Allahabad, received the hearty support of the Directors.⁸⁶

It was at Benares, too, that Hastings promised the Vazir the help of British troops in the conquest of Rohilkhand. The Marathas had invaded Rohilkhand early in 1772, and again in 1773. The subjugation of Rohilkhand would have given them unimpeded access to Oudh. The English general, Sir Robert Barker, therefore, tried to bring about an agreement between the Rohillas and the Vazir, and it was through his efforts that a treaty was made between them (17 June 1772) by which the Rohillas agreed to pay 40 lakhs of rupees to the Vazir on his obliging the

84. Gleig, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 355.

85. *Ibid.*, p. 393.

86. *Letter from Court*, 3 March 1776, paras. 32-6.

Marathas to retire from their country 'either by peace or war'. Almost before the treaty was signed the Marathas retired from Rohilkhand, but they reappeared the next year. The Vazir, assisted by an English force, advanced to repel the invasions. After some manoeuvring and counter-marching the Marathas retired once more (23 March 1773). The Vazir now demanded 40 lakhs from the Rohillas, who, however, refused to pay the same.

At Benares Shujaud-Daulah proposed that the Company should help him with a brigade to reduce the Rohilla country; he would bear the expenses of the brigade while it was in his service, and pay 40 lakhs at the end of the expedition. The Vazir had long been anxious to add the Rohilla territories to his own. Hastings adroitly used the occasion to obtain the Vazir's consent to meeting the whole expense of the Company's troops, whenever he might call them to his aid, instead of only the extraordinary expenses, which alone he was bound to pay according to the treaty of Allahabad (1765). He readily accepted the Vazir's proposal, both because the addition of Rohilkhand to the Vazir's territory would yield a more defensible frontier, and because of the prospect of receiving 40 lakhs of rupees: "I own", he said in a letter written soon after his return from Benares to Calcutta, "that such was my idea of the Company's distress at home, added to my knowledge of their wants abroad, that I should have been glad of any occasion to employ their forces, which saves so much of their pay and expenses".⁸⁷ However, he was at the same time painfully conscious that employing the Company's troops to conquer Rohilkhand would amount to violation of the Directors' oft-repeated orders. Besides, the Company's affairs were at this time under close scrutiny in England, and Hastings entertained doubts as to the expediency of undertaking the expedition at that time, "arising from the circumstances of the Company at home exposed to popular clamour, all its measures liable to be canvassed in Parliament, their Charter drawing to a close, and His Majesty's Ministers unquestionably ready to take advantage of every unfavourable circumstance in the negotiation for its renewal".⁸⁸ When, therefore, after everything had been settled, the Vazir suddenly became hesitant about the expedition, Warren Hastings readily fell in with his idea of not proceeding with the project. He, however, gave the Vazir "every reason to expect that whenever it could again be with prudence resumed, and he desired it, it should be undertaken".⁸⁹

In November 1773, the Vazir, taking advantage of the weakness of the Marathas owing to the troubles consequent on the murder of the Peshwa Narayanrao, began to drive away the garrisons which they had left in Etawa and other places in the Doab, and to take possession of those districts himself. He asked for the loan of a few pieces of heavy artillery from Hastings, to which Hastings agreed, and they were sent to him in

87. Gleig, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 350.

88. Strachey, *op. cit.*, pp. 111, 121.

89. *Ibid.*, p. 113.

charge of an English officer, Captain Brooke. He asked also for the assistance of English troops for reducing the Rohillas. The request was considered by the Board, who debated it for three successive days. The majority were agreed about the advantages of the project, but feared that "the propriety of the measure might not be seen in the same light by our constituents, which we knew, from the temper of the times, might not only draw upon us their severe resentment, but aggravate the load of popular odium which has of late fallen on their servants".⁹⁰ Ultimately they agreed to the draft of a letter prepared by Hastings for being sent to the Vazir, in which the assistance of a brigade was agreed to, but payment of the monthly subsidy for the troops punctually, and of the 40 lakhs at the end of the expedition, was insisted on. The Vazir agreed to the condition, and called for the brigade in February 1774. Colonel Champion, the new Commander-in-Chief, arrived with the troops within the Vazir's territory on 24 February; on 17 April the united forces entered the Rohilla country; and on 23 April they engaged and defeated the Rohillas. Hafiz Rahmat Khan, the Rohilla chief, was killed. Faizullah Khan, the eldest son of Ali Muhammad, the founder of the Rohilla power, then became the acknowledged head of the Rohillas. He fled to the hills, but, being pursued by the English and the Vazir's troops, came to terms with the Vazir on 7 October 1774.

To Hastings, the saving of one-third of the military expenses through the loan of a brigade to the Vazir, the stipulation of 40 lakhs as a share in the spoils, and the security obtained for the Vazir's territories through a more defensible frontier, were ample recommendations for the project of the Rohilla war.⁹¹ Only a colourable pretext for such a war was wanted, and that was furnished by the Rohillas' breach of the treaty of June 1772. The policy of the Rohilla war was, however, bitterly attacked by the hostile majority in the new Council appointed under the Regulating Act. The Directors, too, on receipt of the Select Committee's letters of May 1774, expressed their concern at finding that their arms had been employed in the conquest of the Rohillas,⁹² and added that by the treaty of Allahabad they were bound to assist the Vazir in defending his dominions, "but in regard to new conquests or to any warlike enterprises beyond his own territories, we absolutely prohibit you from employing our troops on such expeditions, on any pretence whatever."⁹³ They repeated this prohibition in a further letter.⁹⁴ The matter came before the Directors once more in October 1775, in consequence of the dissensions in the Council, when they once more repeated their orders against distant expeditions and offensive

90. G.W. Forrest (ed.), *Selections from the Letters, Despatches and Other State Papers in the Foreign Departments of the Government of India, 1772-85*, vol. I, p. 149.

91. Forrest, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 144.

92. *Letter from Court*, 3 March 1775, para. 49.

93. *Ibid.*, para. 52.

94. *Letter from Court*, 7 March 1775, para. 6.

wars,⁹⁵ condemned the engagements with Shujaud-Daulah⁹⁶ and also communicated a resolution of the Court of Proprietors disapproving of the policy of the Rohilla war.⁹⁷ The Rohilla war also formed one of the subjects of attack against Hastings in Parliament in April 1786, but as the Commons refused to accept the charge it was not made one of the articles in the impeachment.

III

The Regulating Act and After

The Regulating Act "remodelled the constitution of the Company at home, it remodelled the constitution of the Company in India, and it tentatively and incompletely subjected the Company to the supervision of the ministry, and the subordinate presidencies to the supervision of the supreme government in Calcutta".⁹⁸ We are concerned with the changes affected by the Act in India. Hitherto the Governor's Council in Bengal had usually consisted of as many as 12 to 16 members, but several of these were usually away from Calcutta, holding either Collectorships or Chiefships of the subordinate factories, because these positions held out prospects of acquiring enormous wealth in a short time. The result was that, as Warren Hastings said, "at the Presidency, where the best assistance is required, the worst only can be had".⁹⁹ "...as the collectorships are more lucrative than any posts in the service...we cannot get a man of abilities to conduct the official business of the presidency without violence; for who would rest satisfied with a handsome salary of three or four thousand rupees a year to maintain him in Calcutta, who could get a lac or three lacs, which I believe have been acquired in that space,...in the districts?"¹⁰⁰ In 1770 the Directors had ordered that Council should thenceforward consist of only nine members, who should all remain at Calcutta, and that in future no member of the Council should be permitted to act as Chief of a subordinate factory. Two years later, however, they withdrew these orders, raised the number of Councillors from 9 to 14, and allowed members of Council to hold Chiefships of subordinate factories.¹⁰¹ They ordered also that Barwell, a member of the Council, be appointed to the Chiefship of Dacca, and two other members—Reed and Lane—to the next two vacancies. Effect was given to these orders by the appointment of Barwell, Reed and Lane to the Chiefships of Dacca, Chittagong and Patna respectively.¹⁰²

95. *Letter from Court*, 15 December 1775 (2nd letter), paras. 4-5.

96. *Ibid.*, paras. 9-10.

97. *Ibid.*, para. 2.

98. *The Cambridge History of India*, vol. V, p. 188.

99. Gleig, *op. cit.*, p. 300.

100. *Ibid.*, p. 269.

101. *Letter from Court*, 7 April 1773, para. 36.

102. *Letter to Court*, 16 August 1773, paras. 16-7.

By the Regulating Act the Council was to consist of the Governor-General and four other members. The first Governor-General and Councillors—Hastings, Clavering, Monson, Barwell and Francis—were named in the Act. They were to hold office for 5 years; in case of a vacancy in the office of the Governor-General before the expiry of the period, his place was to be taken by the member next in rank. A similar vacancy in the office of member of Council was to be filled by the Directors with the consent of the Crown. Liberal salaries were provided for the Governor-General and Councillors, and they were forbidden to receive presents or to engage in trade.

Another important change made by the Regulating Act was the creation of a Supreme Court. Hitherto, apart from the country courts which were systematised, as mentioned above, by Warren Hastings, the only court deriving its authority from the British Crown was the Mayor's Court, created in each Presidency in 1726 by a charter renewed in 1753, which had jurisdiction in civil cases. For criminal justice the Governor and Council acted as Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, and held Quarter Sessions. The jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court in Bengal was limited to Europeans living in Calcutta, to servants employed by them or by the Company and to other Indians who consented to be tried by it. The law administered by the Court was the English law.

The system suffered from many defects. The judges (or aldermen) of the Mayor's Court had no legal training and owed their appointments to the President and Council. The Mayor's Court, therefore, tended to be only a branch of the executive, though occasionally it came into conflict with the latter. As the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court was limited to Calcutta, it was easy to evade it by escaping to the mofussil. The Directors, in their letter of 25 March 1772, ordered that if any of their junior servants attempted to avoid prosecution in that manner, they should be dismissed from the service and sent to Europe. The Governor and Council promised to be careful in preventing such abuses in future.¹⁰³ Another question which arose a little later in connection with the Supreme Court was whether Indian *zamindars* were to be looked upon as the Company's servants, and so amenable to the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court. A *zamindar*, being at Calcutta on the business of his *zamindari*, was arrested in the public street by a writ from the Mayor's Court on a civil suit by one of the Company's servants, Mr. Lushington. This was the first instance of a *zamindar* being made amenable to a British Court, and if such cases were repeated, the Company's collections were likely to suffer. The *zamindar* was, therefore, released on bail, and the matter was referred to the Directors for orders, a proclamation being issued in the meantime forbidding servants of the Company to lend money to *zamindars*.¹⁰⁴ The

103. *Letter to Court*, 1 March 1773, para. 78.

104. *Letter to Court*, 10 November 1773, paras. 27-30.

Directors seem to have endorsed this action after consulting their Counsel.¹⁰⁵

The Regulating Act removed some, though not all, of these difficulties. It empowered the Crown to establish at Calcutta a Supreme Court of Justice consisting of a Chief Justice and three other judges. These were to be barristers of not less than five years' standing. The judges would thus be persons learned in law; and as they were appointed by the Crown, they were entirely independent of the Governor-General and Council. The Court's jurisdiction was to extend to the whole of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Unfortunately, however,—though in the circumstances, perhaps inevitably—it was to apply only to British subjects within the three provinces, and to persons employed by, or directly or indirectly in the service of, the Company, or of any British subject, within those provinces.

In order to introduce a measure of unity among the Presidencies, which till then had been completely independent of one another, the Regulating Act vested the Governor-General and Council of Bengal with power to superintend and control the governments of the presidencies of Madras, Bombay and Benkulen, "so far and in so much as that it should not be lawful for any Government of the minor presidencies to make any orders for commencing hostilities, or declaring or making war, against any Indian princes or powers, or for negotiating or concluding any treaty with any such prince or power without the previous consent of the Governor-General and Council, except in such cases of imminent necessity as would render it dangerous to postpone such hostilities or treaties until the arrival of their orders, and except also in cases where special orders had been received from the Company."

Finally, in their detailed instructions to the Governor-General and Council, the Court of Directors set up a Board of Trade consisting of 11 members for managing the business of the Company's trade, which was to be kept separate from revenue work; the Governor-General and Council were to keep in constant touch with the proceedings and accounts of the Board of Trade, to place the necessary funds at its disposal, and to assist and co-operate with it in every way.¹⁰⁶

The arrangements consequent on the passing of the Regulating Act led to several conflicts. Differences arose between the Council and the Board of Trade; between Bengal on the one hand and Bombay or Madras on the other; between the Council and the Supreme Court; above all, there was the famous conflict within the Council itself—that conflict of which it has truly been said that it 'can hardly be paralleled in history'.¹⁰⁷ The three Councillors who came from England—Clavering (also appointed Commander-in-Chief), Monson and Francis—seem to have come with the fixed idea in their minds that Hastings was a corrupt, unprincipled man. They had been appointed at a time when in England the air was thick with rumours of oppressions committed by the Company's

105. See enclosure to *letter from Court*, 3 March 1775.

106. *Letter from Court*, 29 March 1774, paras. 4, 14, 18, 24.

107. *The Cambridge History of India*, vol. V, p. 225.

servants in India, and one of the instructions given by the Directors to the new Council was "immediately to cause the strictest enquiry to be made into all oppressions which may have been committed either against the natives or Europeans, and into all abuses that may have prevailed in the collection of the revenues or any part of the civil government of the Presidency".¹⁰⁸ Clavering, Monson and Francis appear to have looked upon this as the most important part of their duties. They also considered it their duty to adhere rigidly to the oft-repeated instructions of the Directors not to engage in any wars of conquest. Almost immediately on their arrival, therefore, they came into conflict with Hastings on the policy of the Rohilla war and the treaty of Benares. The conflict thus begun continued without interruption till the death of Monson on 25 September 1776¹⁰⁹ when it became possible for Hastings, who during the struggle had received steady support from Barwell, to regain power by the use of his casting vote. For these two years and more, there was a constant warfare of minutes, of charge and counter-charge, reply and counter-reply between Hastings and Barwell on the one hand and the majority on the other. Hastings maintained the unequal struggle with marvellous courage and patience, but in March 1775 he wrote to his London agents, Graham and Maclean, that he had resolved to leave India and return to England "if the first advices from England contain a disapprobation of the treaty of Benares, or of the Rohilla war, and mark an evident disinclination towards me", and left it to them to make such use of the information as they thought proper.¹¹⁰ Two months later, however, he wrote again to withdraw the resolution.¹¹¹ The Directors did condemn the policy of the Rohilla war, and, on the whole, supported the views of the majority as against Hastings'.¹¹² The Ministry, too, was, for its own reasons, anxious to procure his recall and was, with that in view, bringing pressure to bear on the Directors. To Maclean these circumstances appeared so unfavourable that he came to an understanding with the Ministry by which Hastings should retire with honour on certain conditions. He accordingly wrote to the Directors, informing them that Hastings had "authorized, empowered and directed me to signify to you his desire to resign his office of Governor-General of Bengal, and to request your nomination of a successor to the vacancy which will be thereby occasioned in the Supreme Council".¹¹³ Wheeler was nominated by the Directors to the vacancy, and the nomination was approved by the King.¹¹⁴ How the arrival of the Directors' orders in June 1777 led to a crisis in the Bengal Council, and how Hastings' resignation did not become effective, lies beyond the purview of this volume.

108. *Letter from Court*, 29 March 1774, para. 35.

109. *Letter to Court*, 26 September, 1776.

110. Gleig, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 521.

111. *Ibid.*, p. 533.

112. *Letter from Court*, 15 December 1775 (2nd letter), paras. 3-13, 27-9.

113. *Letter from Court*, 25 October 1776, enclosure 1.

114. *Ibid.*, enclosure 8.

(1) *Conflict within the Council, and between Bengal and the other Presidencies*

A. *Foreign Policy*:—The very first question¹¹⁵ on which the new Councillors came into conflict with Hastings was that of foreign policy. The new Council met for the first time, and the new Government was proclaimed, on 20 October 1774.¹¹⁵ On the 24th, Hastings laid before the Council a minute on the revenues and politics of the country. On the 25th, the majority required the whole correspondence with Nathaniel Middleton (the Governor-General's agent with Shujaud-Daulah) and with Colonel Champion, the Commander-in-Chief, to be produced. On this being refused by Hastings they recalled Middleton and appointed Bristow in his place. Soon afterwards they ordered Champion to demand at once the 40 lakhs due from the Vazir and to withdraw from Rohilkhand. They also denounced the Benares treaty and the Rohilla war as impolitic and unjust. On the death of Shujaud-Daulah on 26 January 1775, they considered the treaties with him as having lapsed, and concluded a new treaty with his successor (Asafud-Daulah) on terms more profitable to the Company. The subsidy for the use of British troops was increased by Rs. 50,000 per month; the tribute paid by the *Zamindar* of Ghazipur and the sovereignty of Benares passed to the Company; and on these conditions the Nawab was guaranteed possession of Oudh, and, subject to the Directors' approval of the treaty of Benares, also of Kora and Allahabad, thus excluding Rohilkhand and the conquests of Shujaud-Daulah in the Doab. All these matters were hotly debated in the Council, and both parties appealed to the Directors for a final decision. The Directors' orders, on the whole, favoured the majority. They approved the treaty of Benares,¹¹⁶ and declared their view that the treaties with Shujaud-Daulah did not lapse with his death;¹¹⁷ but on the other hand they condemned the policy of the Rohilla war, disapproved of the idea of guaranteeing the Nawab of Oudh possession of the 'lately conquered' Rohilla country, observed that the whole correspondence of Middleton should have been laid before the Council,¹¹⁸ and gave their 'entire approbation' to the treaty with Asafud-Daulah, "by which such terms are procured as seem to promise us solid and permanent advantages".¹¹⁹

The Directors also entirely approved of the policy of keeping one brigade in Oudh, provided it was done with the consent of the Nawab; this would effectively increase the strength of the Company's army, without incurring any cost, as the brigade would at any time be subject to recall in case of necessity.¹²⁰ Other objects which they were anxious to secure in Oudh were, firstly, possession of the fortress of

115. *Letter to Court*, 21 November 1774, paras. 2-3.

116. *Letter from Court*, 3 March 1775, para. 36.

117. *Letter from Court*, 15 December 1775 (2nd letter), para. 16.

118. *Ibid.*, paras. 9, 13, 27-9.

119. *Letter from Court*, 24 December 1776, para. 37.

120. *Letter from Court*, 15 December 1775 (2nd letter), paras. 17-8.

Chunar which the Vazir had, by an agreement in March 1772, delivered to the Company so long as might be necessary for the defence of his territories.¹²¹ and secondly, dismissal from Oudh service of the foreigners whom Shujaud-Daulah had employed.¹²² • This latter object was provided for in the treaty of May 1775. An assignment of land revenue was also obtained for the support of the Company's troops stationed in Oudh.

Oudh now entered on that course of weakness and disorganisation which was to earn it the evil reputation of being the worst of the subsidiary states. Asafud-Daulah was a weak ruler. The finances were strained. The sepoys, not being paid for months, mutinied. The Nawab applied to the English for a supply of officers on the ground that he could not depend on the fidelity of his troops unless they were commanded by European officers. The request was only too readily granted by the Council. The relations between England and France were at this time becoming strained in Europe, and these were naturally reflected in the relations of the Companies in India. England found herself at war with her American colonies on 19 April 1775; and France's intervention on the side of the colonies was only a matter of time. Besides Shujaud-Daulah, Najaf Khan also had several French officers in his service. On the strength of these connections M. Chavalier, the French Governor of Chandernagore held out the possibility of a French invasion of Bengal if an armament were fitted out to enter the Ganges. These apprehensions would be removed if the Nawab Vazir's request for a supply of British officers were granted.¹²³ The Directors approved the action of the Council, but they hoped that the Council would have taken steps to see that when in future the officers were withdrawn, the Vazir's army would not have attained such efficiency as to be a danger to the Company, in case of a change of sentiments in him.¹²⁴

The Directors' fears were entirely groundless, and Oudh, far from being strengthened by the alliance, sank into greater and greater weakness. When the Nawab dismissed one of his corps of matchlockmen, to whom five months' arrears were due, they mutinied and were reduced only after a regular battle in which they lost six hundred of their body, and the Nawab lost three hundred of his regulars.¹²⁵ His court became a hotbed of dissensions owing to the jealousy felt by the old servants of his father for his minister Murtaza Khan. Khwaja Basant, a eunuch of great ability, was the leader of the party opposed to the minister. He had quarrelled with Murtaza Khan and proceeded to high words in the Nawab's presence, by whom they were apparently reconciled. In token of the reconciliation, Khwaja Basant provided an entertainment for the minister, at which both

121. *Letters from Court*, 7 April 1773, para. 33, and 15 December 1775 (2nd letter), para. 24.

122. *Letter from Court*, 15 December 1775 (2nd letter), para. 59.

123. Appendix XXX, *Claverling's letter to Court*, 17 January 1776, paras. 17-9.

124. *Letter from Court*, 24 December 1776, para. 38.

125. Peter Auber, *Rise and Progress of the British Power in India*, vol. I, p. 498.

were intoxicated. Basant went out on pretence of sickness; immediately five or six men rushed in and assassinated Murtaza Khan. Basant went immediately to report the incident to the Nawab, who taxed him with being the author and had him beheaded on the spot. Saadat Ali, the Nawab's brother, fearing for his person, immediately took horses and fled to Najaf Khan. The Nawab was at this time carrying on the siege of Jhansi, but leaving this and other business to Mr. Bristow, he left Etawa and returned to Lucknow. Bristow had to send some troops to oppose the Marathas, but just then the battalions which had been recently put under British officers mutinied. The mutiny was, however, put down, the mutinous battalions disbanded and new ones raised in their place. Oudh seemed to be settling down: Elich Khan, the late Nawab's minister, returned and was reinstated in his former office, and Saadat Ali was also making overtures to return.¹²⁶

Another very important question of foreign policy which came up before the new Council arose out of the relations of the Presidency of Bombay with Marathas. The Company had for a long time been anxious to obtain possession of the islands in the close neighbourhood of Bombay, viz., Salsette, Karanja, Hog Island, etc., which were considered valuable for both strategic and economic reasons, and the Directors had more than once written to Bombay to try to obtain possession of these places, but without using force. An opportunity for attaining this cherished object was provided by the dissensions which arose at Poona consequent on the murder of the Peshwa Narayanrao in August 1773. Raghunathrao, the uncle of the murdered Peshwa, obtained investiture as Peshwa but he was widely reprobated for his complicity in the murder, and while he was away in the Carnatik, some of the ministers at Poona, with Sakharam Bapu and Nana Phadnavis at their head, began to rule in the name, first of Gangabai, widow of Narayanrao, (who was *enceinte* at the time of her husband's death), and then of her infant son Madhavrao II (born in April 1774) sanction for whose investiture as Peshwa was obtained from the Raja. On hearing of the ministerial revolt, Raghunathrao left the Carnatik and made for the North. When in Gujarat, he entered into correspondence with the Chief of Surat, with the view of enlisting the support of the Bombay Government for his restoration to the Peshwaship. The Bombay Government was only too ready to listen to Raghunathrao's overtures, and the treaty of Surat was concluded on 7 March 1775. Already, in December 1774, that Government had taken possession of Salsette by force, and even before the conclusion of the treaty with Raghunathrao had fitted out an expedition for Surat on 17 February under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Keating. Having arrived at Surat on 27 February the detachment proceeded, with Raghunathrao, to Cambay, where they landed on 17 March. They were joined here by a contingent from Madras, for which the Bombay Government had applied in order to make up the promised number of 2,500 men. A

126. *Letter to Court*, 20 July 1776, paras. 16-20.

junction was effected with the fugitive army of Raghunathrao at Darra.¹²⁷ 19 miles from Cambay. The whole army crossed the Sabarmati on 24 April and encamped at Angela. Starting on the 28th, they proceeded northwards along the bank of the river until they reached the village of Hasamli, where they saw the ministerial army on the opposite bank of the river. A brief cannonade followed. Another small engagement occurred on 2 May, near Matar. So far the movements of the army had been directed towards Ahmadabad, where it was hoped to obtain supplies. But the plan was now changed by orders from Bombay, who desired the army to push on as soon as possible to Poona. Accordingly Colonel Keating decided to recross the Sabarmati with the view to passing the river Mahi and arriving at Broach before the setting in of the rainy season.¹²⁸ After the army had passed Nadiad, and before they reached the Mahi, they encountered the ministerial army once more at Adas, where on 18 May a hard-fought battle took place. Colonel Keating reached Broach towards the end of May; but the plan of proceeding southwards was, owing to the oncoming of the rainy season, abandoned and the army took up its quarters at Dabhoi, near Baroda. Meanwhile the Government of Bengal, which under the Regulating Act had certain powers of control over the other presidencies in matters of war and peace, disapproved of the conduct of the Bombay Government, declared the treaty of Surat to be invalid and the war against the Maratha State 'impolitic, dangerous, unauthorised and unjust'. On 31 May 1775, the Bombay Government was peremptorily required to withdraw the Company's forces to their own garrisons in whatever state their affairs might be, "unless their safety may be endangered by an instant retreat". Warren Hastings would have liked to make two further exceptions, but the majority insisted on recalling the troops without any consideration except that of their safe retreat. The Supreme Government also intimated their intention to send their own agent, Colonel Upton, to Poona to arrange a treaty with the Poona Government. The Presidency of Bombay protested strongly against the views and actions of the Supreme Government and sent one of their members, Mr. Tayler, to Calcutta to explain their policy more fully than could be done in a letter. At the same time, however, they sent orders to Colonel Keating to stop hostilities (16 August 1775), and a little later (5 September 1775), to withdraw his forces into "either the Broach or Surat parganas dependent on the Company". Colonel Keating accordingly returned towards Surat, but instead of retiring within the Company's territories, he was, on the earnest recommendation of Raghunathrao, permitted by the Bombay Government to encamp at Karod, about 25 miles east of Surat. Colonel Upton, who arrived at Purandhar on 28 December 1775, concluded a treaty of peace with the Poona Government on 1 March 1776. According to this, Salsette was to be retained or restored at the

127. Called Durmaj by Grant Duff, *History of the Mahrattas*, vol. II, p. 34.

128. Appendix XXII, *Clavering's letter to Court*, 21 July 1775, para. 2.

pleasure of the Governor-General and Council; if restored, the Peshwa's Government agreed to relinquish territory worth three lakhs of rupees of annual revenue as an equivalent. (The Bengal Government presently declared that they were not going to restore Salsette). The Marathas gave up all rights on the city and *pargana* of Broach, and also agreed to cede territory worth three lakhs of rupees in the neighbourhood. The territories in Gujarat ceded to the Company by Raghunathrao by the treaty of Surat were to be restored; the agreement between Raghunathrao and the Company was to be annulled; the English troops were to return to their garrisons; and the army of Raghunathrao was to be disbanded within a month. Should Raghunathrao refuse to disband his army, the English were not to assist him. On condition of his complying with the prescribed terms, an establishment of one thousand horses and two hundred domestics was to be provided for him by the Poona Government, who agreed also to pay him Rs. 25,000 a month for his other expenses, provided he agreed to reside at Kopergaon.

The treaty of Purandhar was a great disappointment to Raghunathrao and the Bombay Government. Raghunathrao refused to accept it, and, in violation of the treaty, was given an asylum by the Bombay Government in Surat, and afterwards in Bombay. The Bombay Government justified their conduct to the Supreme Government on the ground that a former letter from Bengal, written in the preceding October, had permitted them to afford an asylum to Raghunathrao in case his personal safety should be endangered. His troops, too, instead of being disbanded, were allowed to remain in the neighbourhood of Surat, on the plea of the impossibility of disbanding them while the arrears of their pay had not been paid. The Supreme Government, who honestly desired to carry out the stipulations of the treaty, revoked their former permission for giving refuge to Raghunathrao at Surat, and directed the Presidency of Bombay to require him to quit the Company's possessions.¹²⁹

The Presidency of Bombay was encouraged in its obstructive attitude towards the Supreme Government because of the attitude of the Directors, who, in their letter dated 15 December 1775, "approve, under every circumstance, of the keeping of all territories and possessions ceded to the Company by the treaty concluded with Raghobah, and direct, that you forthwith adopt such measures as may be necessary for their preservation and defence."¹³⁰ In a spirited reply¹³¹ the Bengal Government pointed out that in the circumstances it was impossible to carry out those orders without recourse to war: they justified their own conduct as having been guided by the Company's clear and repeated instructions; and they requested that they should be given specific instructions to guide them in the future exercise of that controlling power over the other presidencies with which they were vested by Parliament.

129. *Letter to Court*, 20 July 1776, para. 3.

130. *Letter from Court*, 15 December 1775 (2nd letter), para. 48.

131. *Letter to Court*, 20 July 1776, paras. 4-15.

Not only did the Directors approve of the treaty of Surat, which had been condemned by the Governor-General and Council, but they also disapproved of the latter's orders prohibiting Madras from sending troops to support Bombay.¹³² Such interference, they held, was not authorised by the terms of the Regulating Act: "although the said Act expressly forbids any of the other Presidencies to engage in political negotiations with the natives or foreign nations, without the participation and concurrence of the Supreme Council, yet it certainly leaves each distinct Government power to take from time to time such steps, as the immediate exigency of their affairs may require for self-defence or protection, or for the necessary aid or assistance to be given to other settlements".¹³³ Truly, the Regulating Act had spoken with a very uncertain voice on this matter.

In the South, the relations of the Presidency of Madras with Muhammad Ali, Nawab of the Carnatic, and the relations of the latter with the Raja of Tanjore provided occasions for disagreement among the Presidency of Madras, the Government of Bengal and the Directors in England. The relation in which the Presidency of Madras stood to the Nawab of the Carnatic was very different from that in which the Presidency of Bengal stood to the Nawab of Bengal. In Bengal, the Company's position rested on the *Dewani sanad* of the Emperor, and on treaties made with the Nawab of Bengal. In the South, the Company's position had no such foundation, although it is true that they held the Northern Circars by a grant from the Emperor, and also some land round Madras as a *jagir* from the Nawab of Carnatic. Even this *jagir* land was not administered by the Company itself, but was leased by it to the Nawab. Constitutionally, Muhammad Ali looked upon himself as an independent sovereign, an ally of the King of England, who, besides exchanging presents with him, had asked him to depute for himself for conferring the insignia of the Order of the Bath on Sir John Lindsay and Sir Eyre Coote.¹³⁴

One of the crying evils in the administration of the Madras Presidency at this time was that the servants of the Company there had become creditors of the Nawab on a large scale; this was their 'pet vice' corresponding to the trade oppressions practised by their compeers in Bengal. "Having the control of so large a portion of the private savings of the settlement, the Nabob was able to exercise a most unwholesome influence over the policy of the council".¹³⁵ The Directors repeatedly urged the Council to endeavour to prevail upon the Nawab to discharge these private debts, but without any effect.

To relieve himself from his financial difficulties, Muhammad Ali turned his eyes to the prosperous little principality of Tanjore. This

132. G. W. Forrest (ed.), *Selections from the Letters, Despatches and Other State Papers Preserved in the Bombay Secretariat*, Maratha Series, vol. I, p. 272.

133. *Letter from Court*, 24 December 1776, para. 45.

134. Forrest (ed.), *Selections from the Letters, Despatches and Other State Papers Preserved in the Foreign Department of the Government of India, 1772-85*, vol. II, p. 437.

135. *The Cambridge History of India*, vol. V. p. 273.

Maratha principality had been founded by Venkoji, the half-brother of Shivaji, about the year 1674. It had never been actually incorporated with the Carnatic but had from time to time paid tribute when hard pressed by the Nawab. In the Carnatic Wars (1748-63) the Tanjore Raja had sided with Muhammad Ali and the English. In spite of this, the Nawab, in 1762, when his finances were at a low ebb, claimed large arrears of tribute from the Raja and applied to the English for aid to reduce him. Military aid was refused, but through the mediation of the Madras Government a treaty was arranged between the Nawab and the Raja, by which the latter agreed to pay twenty-two lakhs of rupees as arrears and thereafter four lakhs of rupees as annual tribute. The treaty with Haidar Ali in 1769, which concluded the First Mysore War, included Tanjore in the general pacification. But the Raja was suspected of complicity with Haidar; and when, in February 1771, he set out upon an expedition against the poligar of Ramnad, the Nawab called upon the Presidency for assistance in chastising the Raja. The Raja agreed to refer the differences between himself and the Nawab to the Compay, but the Council would not interfere. In September the Nawab's son, Umdatul-Umara, to whom the negotiation had been entrusted by the Nawab, reported to General Smith, the commander of the English troops, that nothing but compulsion would bring the Raja to the submission required. The army then marched against Tanjore, and when the fort was about to be taken the young Nawab concluded a peace with the Raja. The Raja agreed to pay 8 lakhs as arrears of tribute and 32½ lakhs for the expense of the expedition, to restore whatever he had taken from the poligars, to give up the district of Arni and certain other villages, and to aid the Nawab with troops in all his wars.¹³⁶

Immediately after the expedition against Tanjore, the Nawab applied to the English for assistance to reduce the poligars of Ramnad and Nalcooty on the ground that they had not given the required assistance in war with Tanjore. These were accordingly reduced in 1772. The next year the Nawab desired yet another expedition against Tanjore on the ground that the Raja had not contributed towards carrying on the war against the poligars; that he had not paid the tribute in full; and that if the present opportunity should be lost, the French or the Marathas would take Tanjore and disturb the peace of the Carnatic. Tanjore was accordingly invaded a second time. It was taken on 18 September 1773; the Raja was captured along with his family and his territory annexed by the Nawab to his own.¹³⁷

The Court of Directors disapproved of these proceedings of the Madras Government. They accused the latter of disingenuousness in sending advices home and of disobedience to their orders that no additions should be made to the possessions either of the Company or of the Nawab. They ordered that the Governor, Mr. Wynch, should be removed from

136. C. U. Aitchison, *Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, vol. V., pp. 370-71; Mill, *op. cit.*, vol. IV, p. 68.

137. Mill, *op. cit.*, vol. IV, pp. 70-80.

office, and severely reprimanded the members of the Council. Lord Pigot, who had been Governor of Madras during the Seven Years' War and had retired in 1763, was sent out once more as Governor, with instructions to restore the Raja of Tanjore on certain conditions. These conditions were that the Raja would receive a garrison of the Company's troops into the fort of Tanjore; assign lands for their maintenance; enter into no relations with any foreign power except with the Company's concurrence; and continue to pay the tribute to the Nawab. Lord Pigot assumed the office of Governor on 11 December 1775, and the restoration of the Raja of Tanjore was proclaimed on 11 April 1776.

Muhammed Ali had tried, by every artifice in his power, to postpone the restoration of the Raja of Tanjore; having failed, he sent a long and 'very affecting' letter to the Governor-General and Council, complaining of the conduct of Lord Pigot. He complained that Lord Pigot had tried to prevent him from representing his case to the Governor-General and Council; that he had unnecessarily brought with him a large force to Tanjore, thus injuring 'the honour of my friendship with the English Nation'; that he had violated his agreement to allow some of the Nawab's cavalry in Tanjore and to allow his flag to fly there; that he had seized and collected all the grain in the Tanjore country although that grain had been assigned by him (the Nawab) to his creditors; that he had seized his *dabir* and other servants in Alianore and had thus "violated the Guarantee of the King and Parliament established in behalf of my Rights", for which he deserved the severest punishment; that he had threatened to put a European guard over him (the Nawab), etc. On this, the Governor-General and Council, in one of their rare moments of unanimity, passed eight resolutions censuring the conduct of Lord Pigot.¹³⁸ But hardly was the ink on their letter to the Directors dry when a conspiracy in the Madras Council led to the seizure of the Governor's person and the overthrow of his government (24 August 1776)¹³⁹.

B. *Charges against Warren Hastings*.—The most violent of the contests within the Council, however, arose out of the charges against Warren Hastings. As has been remarked already, the new Councillors who were sent out to India came with the notion that their first duty was to stamp out abuses of all kinds in the administration, beginning with the Governor-General himself. They themselves from the very start refused all presents and "accompanied our refusal of presents with an explanation of our motives and with such assurances of regard . . . as, we are convinced, has cleared us from any suspicion of intending to give them offence". The people of the country, they said, "are not so dull as to be incapable of understanding, that it is possible to be their friends without taking their money".¹⁴⁰ Reports also seem to have been then current in Calcutta about

138. *Letter to Court*, 22 August 1776, paras. 12-3.

139. Mill, *op. cit.*, vol. IV, p. 95.

140. Appendix X, *letter from Clavering, Monson and Francis to Court*, 30 November 1774, para. 1.

corruption in the administration, and about Warren Hastings himself having made 40 lakhs in the course of two and a half years.¹⁴¹ It is not surprising, therefore, that the new Councillors should have lent a ready ear to accusations of corruption in high places.

In December 1774, the Rani of Burdwan brought a charge that Hastings and Graham (a former member of Hastings' Council) had received large presents from the *Diwan* of the *zamindari* of Burdwan. The Rani was a widow : after the death of her husband, Raja Tilok Chand, her minor son had at first been placed under her guardianship, but afterwards, during the administration of Cartier, it had been resolved to withdraw the young Raja from the guardianship of the Rani and to entrust the management of the *zamindari* to a Resident and a *Diwan* to be appointed by the Company. This resolution was put into effect by Hastings in 1772. The Rani now alleged not only that the *Diwan* had paid Rs. 15,000 to Hastings, and other large sums to Graham, the Resident, but that Graham's conduct in separating her son from herself had been marked by cruelty. Hastings wrote to the Court of Directors, defending Graham against this last charge. The complaint, he said, had been made to him by the Rani even at the time the separation was effected, and he had asked for a report on it from Stuart, who was Collector of Burdwan at the time. From Stuart's report and also from Graham's own explanation, he was satisfied that the Rani's complaint was without foundation.¹⁴² For the other charge—about the receipt of present-various accounts were produced, and they were to come for consideration before the Board. But in the meantime other accusations had been brought against Hastings. One was that out of the salary of Rs. 72,000, which was ostensibly paid to the *Faujdar* of Hooghly, Hastings appropriated Rs. 36,000, and his *banyan*, Kanto Babu (Krishnakanta Nandi) Rs. 4,000. Zainul-Abidin, who brought this charge, offered to accept the office on a salary of Rs. 32,000, which would mean a saving of Rs. 40,000 to the Company. According to the majority in the Council, this particular charge was 'the common subject of conversation and derision through the whole settlement.'¹⁴³

The most celebrated of these accusations, however, was that brought forward by Nandakumar. On 11 March 1775, Francis laid before the Board a letter, addressed to the Governor-General in Council, which had been delivered to him that morning by Nandakumar. The letter was opened and read out to the Council. It contained a long account of Nandakumar's own services, and of the embezzlements of Muhammad Riza Khan and Shitab Rai. It hinted that Hastings had received bribes from Muhammad Riza Khan and Shitab Rai as an inducement to set them at liberty, and it ended by saying that he himself and Munni Begam had paid Rs. 3½ lakhs to Hastings for procuring the appointments of Gurudas and Munni Begam as *Diwan* and guardian of the Nawab respec-

141. Appendix X.VIII, letter from Warren Hastings to Court, 16 May 1775, para. 1.

142. Appendix XV, letter from Hastings to Court, 23 February 1775, paras. 3-4.

143. Appendix XVIII, letter from Hastings to Court, 16 May 1775, para. 1.

tively. On 13 March, a further letter was received from Nandakumar, in which he asked to be allowed to appear before the Board to prove what he had said in his first letter. Monson proposed that he should be called before the Board. Hastings objected: "I declare," he said in a famous minute, "that I will not suffer Nundcomar to appear before the Board as my accuser. I know what belongs to the dignity and character of the first Member of this Administration....the Chief of this Administration, your superior, gentlemen, appointed by the legislature itself, shall I sit at this Board to be arraigned in the presence of a wretch whom you all know to be one of the basest of mankind...You may, if you please, form yourselves into a Committee for the investigation of these matters, in any manner which you may think proper, but I will repeat that I will not meet Nundcomar at the Board, nor suffer Nundcomar to be examined at the Board".¹⁴⁴ He declared the Council dissolved, and protested that any acts of it as a Council during his absence were illegal and unwarranted. He left the Council, and was followed by Barwell. The other three members, taking the view that the Board could not be dissolved but by a resolution of the majority, voted Clavering to the chair. Nandakumar was called in, and he produced a letter purporting to be from Munni Begam. After putting some questions to him, the Councillors resolved that the various sums mentioned in Nandakumar's letter, amounting to about 3½ lakhs, had been received by the Governor-General and that he should be required to pay the amount into the Company's Treasury. The Secretary was asked to wait on the Governor-General and communicate this resolution to him. On the Secretary reporting that Hastings refused to receive it as a resolution of the Board, the Councillors resolved that all the papers should be handed over to the Company's attorney, for opinion as to how the money should be recovered from the Governor-General.¹⁴⁵ Next day, 14 March 1775, similar incidents were repeated: a motion being made by Clavering that certain persons should be called before the Board for inquiring into the accusations preferred by the Rani of Burdwan, Hastings again dissolved the Council, and again the Majority resolved to place the relevant papers in the hands of the Company's attorney.¹⁴⁶ In the Hooghly Faujdar case, too, Hastings dissolved the Council, but "the majority continued their proceedings in his absence. Two letters of the Phoujdar...were produced in evidence; and two witnesses were examined. The Phoujdar himself was summoned to answer...he declined examination upon oath...the majority construed it into a contempt of the Board, and dismissed the Phoujdar from his office, which they conferred, not upon the accusing petitioner, but another individual (one Mirza Mehdi), at one-half of the preceding salary..."¹⁴⁷

Yet another charge against Hastings was that he allowed his *banyan*,

144. Forrest, *op. cit.*, vol. II, pp. 305-06.

145. Appendix XVIII, *letter from Hastings to Court*, 16 May 1775, para. 1.

146. *Ibid.*

147. Mill, *op. cit.*, vol. III, pp. 442-43.

Kanto Babu, to take up farms to the annual amount of 13½ lakhs, when the regulations made by Hastings himself had laid down that no one should hold farms for more than one lakh, and that no *banyan* of a Collector should be allowed to take up a farm. Hastings' opponents hinted that these large farms could not have been heaped upon Kanto Babu entirely for his own profit.¹⁴⁸ The only reply Hastings could give was that "most of Cantoo Baboo's farms were taken without my knowledge, and almost all without my advice."¹⁴⁹

The majority also charged Hastings with having allowed some of his close associates, Graham and Barwell and others, to make illegal profits. Barwell, for instance, was accused of having appropriated a portion of the profits of two large salt farms in the province of Dacca, while he was Chief of that factory. To this again Hastings could only say that he was not responsible for the conduct of every member of the late administration; that the emoluments of the Company's servants had been cut down in his administration but 'some may have remained', which he thought it right to wink at; others which it was not in his power to prevent; and others with which he was unacquainted.¹⁵⁰

On 2 May 1775, James Grant, Accountant to the Provincial Council of Murshidabad, reported to the Board that he had obtained possession of the accounts of the Nawab's household for eight years from a person Nanda Ray, who had till lately been a clerk in the household, and had brought them to Calcutta. It appeared from these accounts that Munni Begam had during these eight years received about Rs. 9,67,000 more than had been accounted for. Grant was called before the Board. The party opposed to the Governor-General thought the circumstances sufficiently strong to render an inquiry necessary. They resolved that a person of proper rank in the service should be appointed to go to Murshidabad, to acquaint the Nawab and the Begam with the information that had been given to the Board, and to obtain from her all the accounts of the household; that Goring be entrusted with this mission, and should deliver the accounts for examination to a committee of three persons—Maxwell, Anderson and Grant; and that to facilitate the proposed examination the Begam should be divested of her office, which should be given to Raja Gurudas until further orders. Hastings objected to these proposals, and attributed them to the desire of the majority to eradicate his authority.¹⁵¹

Goring arrived at Murshidabad on 16 May 1775 and carried out his commission the next day. He had obtained permission from the Board to remove Munni Begam, if necessary, from the fort, her usual residence, to a palace of Mir Jafar' in the city. The Begam objected to being removed to the city, and said if she was to quit the fort she would prefer going to

148. Appendix XVIII, *letter from Hastings to Court*, 16 May 1775, para. 1.

149. *Ibid.*

150. *Ibid.*

151. Appendix XX, *letter from Hastings to Court*, 18 May 1775, paras. 4-14.

Calcutta, where there were courts of justice, from which the aggrieved could get redress. Goring told her that that part of his instructions was discretionary, and assured her that she would be treated with the utmost respect according to the Board's orders. On 21 May, Itibar Ali Khan, chief eunuch of the Begam, was confined by the young Nawab's orders (according to Goring's report of that date), on a complaint by one Iwaz Ali Khan that Rs. 15,000 had been illegally taken from him by Itibar Ali.¹⁵² Next day, 22 May, Goring reported that Itibar Ali had been released from confinement by the Nawab, as the Begam had made herself answerable to the the Nawab for any sums that may be due to him by Itibar Ali. In the same letter he enclosed also an account, under the Begam's seal, of two sums paid by her to "English gentlemen"—viz., a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 paid to Hastings for entertainment, and a like sum to Middleton "on account of an agreement entered into by the Bahoo Begum".¹⁵³ At the Board meeting on 25 May, Hastings asked: "As the commission given to Mr. Goring was to receive from the Begum all the accounts....for eight years past, and to deliver them into the hands of gentlemen appointed to examine and report their contents to the Board, I desire that Mr. Goring may be asked in what manner he came by the account he has now sent....in which two sums only are mentioned and said to be paid to myself and Mr. Middleton, and on what account this partial selection was made by him".¹⁵⁴ He implied that the account was obtained by intimidation, and that the object of the selection was to frame an accusation against himself. He said as much in his letter to the Court.¹⁵⁵

The majority's dealing in the Rajshahi case also, according to Hastings, were similarly due to their anxiety to procure accusations against himself: they deprived Dulal Ray, the farmer of the *zamindari*, of his farm on the ostensible ground that he had exacted more from the ryots than the rents due by their *pattas*, and had given the farm to Ramkrishna, the adopted son of Rani Bhawani, the real reason for the favour thus shown to Ramkrishna, however, being that he had brought accusations against Kanto Babu. Nandadulal, the *Diwan* of Rajshahi, was also dismissed for a similar reason.¹⁵⁶

But already before this the worst had been over for Hastings. On 19 April one Kamalud-Din, farmer of Hijili, went to Hastings and told him that Nandakumar and Joseph Fowke (a European bitterly opposed to Hastings and not at that time in the Company's service), had compelled him by threats to sign a petition stating that he had bribed Hastings and Barwell. Hastings referred Kamalud-Din to the Chief Justice, who

152. Forrest, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 383.

153. *Ibid.*, p. 384.

154. *Ibid.*, p. 386.

155. Appendix XXIII, letter from Hastings to Court, 31 July 1775, paras. 12—3.

156. Appendices XX and XXIII, letters from Hastings to Court, 18 May 1775. and 31 July 1775.

summoned the parties before him the next day and held an examination which lasted from 11 in the morning till 11 at night. As there appeared to be sufficient *prima facie* reason for a prosecution for conspiracy, the judges asked Hastings, Barwell and Vansittart if they meant to institute the prosecution, giving them time up to the 23rd. On the 21st, the majority of the Council, visited Nandakumar.¹⁵⁷ On the 23rd, Hastings, Barwell and Vansittart declared their intention to prosecute Nandakumar, Fowke and Rai Radhacharan (Nandakumar's son-in-law) who were admitted to bail. At the Assizes in July, all the accused were acquitted of the charge of conspiracy against Hastings, but Nandakumar and Fowke were convicted on the charge of conspiracy against Barwell. Before this, however, on 6 May, an attorney named Mohan Prasad, had brought a charge of forgery against Nandakumar. Justices Le Maistre and Hyde, sitting as magistrates, committed him to gaol to be tried for forgery. The trial took place before all the four judges from 8 to 16 June; Nandakumar was found guilty, sentenced to death and executed on 5 August 1775.

The prosecution and conviction of Nandakumar seems to have put an effective stop to all further accusations against Hastings, but the last flicker of these personal recriminations occurred on 7 September 1775, when Hastings presented to the Board a petition from one Karimullah, who claimed to be a *vakil* of Mir Qasim, requesting the Government to help him in obtaining from the estate of a deceased person a sum of money to which his master laid claim. The amount in question, if belonging to Mir Qasim, was to be viewed as the property of an enemy, and Hastings accordingly proposed that the question should be referred to the Company's Standing Counsel. Monson thereupon asked whether Karimullah, who called himself a *vakil* of Mir Qasim, had received his permission to come to the Presidency. Hastings replied in the negative, and added that he understood that he had been at Calcutta for some years. Monson then asked whether the Governor-General knew with whom he (the *vakil*) had lived and who had subsisted him. Hastings replied that he neither knew by whom he had been subsisted, nor where he had lived; but that in consequence of his extreme distress, he had, a few days before, given him a small sum of money. Monson then asked a third question: "...whether he thinks a proscribed prince has a right to send a vakeel to this Presidency to reside here?"¹⁵⁸ "My object", he added, "is to clear the Governor-General's conduct from any imputation that may be thrown upon it;...I am more particularly anxious at this juncture to have this matter clearly explained, as I perceive many of Cossim Ally Cawn's adherents, and strenuous opposers of the English, stand forth as the arraigners of this administration, and receive many compliments and civilities from some of the most distinguished characters in this Presi-

157. Appendix XVIII, *letter from Hastings to Court*, 16 May 1775, para. 1.

158. *Auber, op. cit.*, vol. I., pp. 492-93.

159. Appendix XXV, *letter from Hastings to Court*, 8 September 1775, para. 24.

dency".¹⁶⁰ Hastings and Monson both addressed the Court of Directors the next day (8 September 1775), Hastings saying that Monson had charged him with a crime not short of high treason, and Monson claiming that in asking the questions he had asked, he had only done his duty, and given an opportunity to Hastings to clear himself of an imputation, not indeed of anything so serious as treason but of negligence of duty.¹⁶⁰

Both sides in this war of recrimination had sent voluminous addresses to the Court of Directors. The Court deplored the dissensions,¹⁶¹ and said that they would reply to those particulars which required their observation, direction or determination with equal regard to every member of the Board, 'expressing our approbation of such measures as are right and reprehending those which appear to us deserving of censure'.¹⁶² The question whether the Governor-General was empowered to dissolve the Council at pleasure, they referred to lawyers for their opinion. But whatever the legal right, they gave it as their own opinion that it was highly improper that such power should be exercised by the Governor-General or by any President, and ordered that no meeting of the Council should be dissolved or adjourned by the Governor-General, or any President for the time being, without the consent of a majority of members present at the meeting; also that if at any time the Governor-General, or any member or members, not being a majority, thought proper to withdraw from the Board, leaving a majority of the whole Council sitting, such majority could continue to sit as a Board.¹⁶³ They expressed their concern that the regulations framed by the Committee of Circuit in 1772 for letting the lands were being violated in practice through farms being given to *banyans*, and through demands being made on farmers over and above the fixed rent, and ordered that the regulations be strictly enforced.¹⁶⁴ In particular they condemned the conduct of the late President and Council in allowing Kanto Babu, the Governor's *banyan*, to hold large farms, or to be security for such farms, and afterwards relinquishing that security, as also the conduct of Barwell in exacting additional amounts from the farmers of two salt farms in Dacca for his own use and that of the other gentlemen of the factory.¹⁶⁵ They eulogised the zeal and assiduity of Clavering and his friends in conducting their enquiries into abuses,¹⁶⁶ and their determination to refuse all presents.¹⁶⁷

C. *Land Settlement and Finances*.—Two other matters which provoked angry debate between the two parties in the Council were (i) the land settlement, and (ii) the state of the Company's finances.

(i) The settlement made by Hastings in 1772 had turned out a

160. Appendix XXVI, *letter from Monson to Court*, 8 September 1775.

161. *Letter from Court*, 15 December 1775 (2nd letter), para. 1.

162. *Ibid.*, para. 2.

163. *Letter from Court*, 31 January 1776, paras. 17-8.

164. *Ibid.*, paras. 21-32.

165. *Letter from Court*, 5 April 1776, para. 27.

166. *Ibid.* para. 30.

167. *Letter from Court*, 15 December 1775 (2nd letter), para. 43.

failure. The system of auctioning of lands had given opportunities to a host of "speculating and unprincipled adventurers who, in many cases, ousted the old *zamindars* and thus severed an old-established link between government and the cultivator of the soil..."¹⁶⁸ Even in those cases in which *zamindars* retained their lands, they could only do so by engaging for sums beyond their power to raise in an ordinary season. The result was that lands were highly over-assessed. The Government, not realising this, gave peremptory orders for the collection of deficits. "This was done with undaunted harshness...Confinement of *zamindars* and farmers was freely used, but without any result except that of adding to the confusion."¹⁶⁹ "The proceedings of the Board of Revenue from 1773 to 1776 record a monotonous list of large deficits, defaulting *zamindars*, absconding farmers, and deserting ryots."¹⁷⁰

Clearly the system called for reform, and in April 1775 Hastings and Barwell submitted a joint plan of a new settlement. The principal suggestions in this plan were these: (i) That lands should be farmed out on leases for life, or for two joint lives, to responsible people, preferably *zamindars*, if they made reasonable offers. (ii) The revenue should remain fixed during the life time of the *zamindar*. (iii) If a settlement was not made with the *zamindar* he should be granted an allowance of 10% on the amount of the farm. (iv) On the death of a *zamindar* the farm should devolve to his heirs, with an option to Government to continue it at the old rate or with an increase not exceeding 10%.

Francis proposed a counter plan in January 1776, in which he recommended a settlement in perpetuity with the *zamindars*.

Both plans were sent to the Directors who, however, thought it inadvisable to adopt either plan immediately. They directed that for the next year the lands should be let on the most advantageous terms, but not by auction. They ordered also that the arrears of rent should, as far as possible, be collected, but if it appeared to the Governor-General and Council, whose local knowledge and judgment they trusted, that the balances could not be collected, the whole or part thereof might be remitted.¹⁷¹

(ii) Francis' views on the land settlement were based on his appreciation of the general condition of Bengal. Bengal was, according to Francis, in a perilous condition, "tottering upon the verge of ruin".¹⁷² "A rich and flourishing state has been reduced to the hazard at least of beggary and ruin".¹⁷³ Hastings was trying to extract the greatest possible revenue from the lands in order to deceive the Court of Directors, to secure a harvest for himself and his colleagues and to drain Bengal while

168. *The Cambridge History of India*, vol. V, p. 417.

169. *Ibid.*

170. *Ibid.*, p. 419.

171. *Letter from Court*, 24 December 1776, paras. 41-3.

172. Sophia Weitzman, *Warren Hastings and Philip Francis*, p. 32 (n).

173. Forrest, *op cit.*, vol. I, p. 203.

he had it in his power, and then abandon it depopulated and distressed to his successor in office.¹⁷⁴ The Bengal Treasury was really in a state of bankruptcy, and the optimistic accounts which Hastings was sending home were misleading. Hastings admitted that the assessments of 1772 had been excessive : "The zemindars and farmers were themselves deceived, and did more for the lands than they could afford."¹⁷⁵ On the other hand, Hastings could point to balances in the Treasury, the amount of stock of all kinds in the hands of the Company and to the diminishing public debts, as evidence of the prosperity of the Company's affairs. Thus in his letter of 3 December 1774 he said that there was then a balance of over 80 lakhs "actually lying in our treasuries".¹⁷⁶ A comparison of the Company's stock on 13 April 1772 (the day he took charge of the Governorship) and on 31 January 1775, i.e., about three years later, would, he said, show that the Company was above two crores of rupees richer in 1775 than in 1772; and the balance in the general and provincial treasuries made up to 30 April 1775 was also above a crore of rupees.¹⁷⁷ The majority objected to those statements on the grounds (i) that in calculating the value of the dead stock every amount spent on a certain item was included in its present value, (ii) that in calculating the balances in the treasuries, it was possible that the same sums were counted twice over, since the balances in the different treasuries were not taken on the same date, and (iii) that even if the balances were real, they were no evidence of the flourishing state of the country, since they were obtained by such acts as suspending the Emperor's tribute, the sale of Kora and Allahabad and hiring of the Company's troops for the conquest of the Rohillas.¹⁷⁸

(2) *Conflict between Court and Council*

With the creation of the Supreme Court by the Regulating Act, there ensued a long struggle between that Court and the Council, which came to an end only in 1781. The conflict was inevitable. According to the Charter which set up the Supreme Court, the latter's civil jurisdiction extended over "all European and British subjects resident in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, and every other person who, either at the time of bringing the action, or at the time the action accrued, was employed or was directly in the service of the Company, or any other of our subjects". Its criminal jurisdiction extended over "the town of Calcutta and the Factory, of Fort William in Bengal, and the factories subordinate thereto". At the same time, according to section 7 of the Regulating Act, "the whole civil and military government of the said Presidency, and also the ordering, management and government of all the territorial acquisitions and revenues of the kingdoms of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa" were vested in the Governor-

174. Weitzman, *op. cit.*, p. 41.

175. Forrest, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 358.

176. Appendix XIII, *letter from Hastings to Court*, 3 December 1774, para. 5.

177. Appendix XVIII, *letter from Hastings to Court*, 16 May 1775, para. 4.

178. Forrest, *op. cit.*, vols. I, pp. 206-07, II, pp. 483-84.

General and Council. Neither the Act nor the Charter made it clear whether the 'management' etc., vested in the Council was, or was not, to be exempt from the jurisdiction of the Court. The Council maintained that their officers were exempt from the jurisdiction of the Court in anything done by them in connection with the collection of the revenue; the Court, on the other hand, maintained that it was their duty to entertain suits brought against the officers for any irregular or oppressive acts with which they might be charged in the execution of their duty, as this was precisely one of the principal objects with which the Court had been created.¹⁷⁹ Hitherto, when a farmer or collector of revenue committed default, the provincial Councils had been following the simple age-old method of enforcing compliance : one or more peons were set over the defaulter, that is they went to his house and there watched and restrained him till the sum in demand was discharged. But now, with the coming of the Supreme Court, this was considered a gross abuse; the defaulters were taught by the attorneys that they could get redress from the Supreme Court by suing for a writ of habeas corpus and obtaining release on bail.¹⁸⁰ Again, even when a person was exempt from the jurisdiction of the Court, it was still necessary for him to appear before it to plead for exemption, or else he was liable to be arrested and imprisoned. It was in this way that *zamindars* and others were arrested upon their estates, brought to Calcutta and often kept in gaol for months. The effect of this on the minds of the people has been vividly described by Mill: "The minds of the natives were thrown into the utmost consternation and alarm. They saw themselves surrounded with dangers of a terrible nature, from a new and mysterious source the operations of which they were altogether unable to comprehend".¹⁸¹ It is true that the Court required an affidavit from the plaintiff as to the circumstance which would make the defendant liable to its jurisdiction ; but even so, the fact remained that "on an affidavit sworn behind his back, a man might be arrested at Dacca, for instance, or Patna, and brought to Calcutta, there to be imprisoned at a distance of many hundred miles from his home, unless he could give bail for an action perhaps unjustly brought against him."¹⁸²

The Court was viewed with distrust by the Council from the very beginning. The Court had at once peremptorily decided that no other criminal jurisdiction than its own could exist in Calcutta. The extent of its civil jurisdiction—whether that also was to be confined to Calcutta, or whether it was to extend to the Company's officers and dependents throughout the Provinces—was not immediately decided, but the Council viewed the possibility of such extension with alarm.¹⁸³ This extension

179. James F. Stephen, *The Story of nuncomar and the impeachment of Sir Elijah Impey*, vol. II, p. 148.

180. Mill, *op. cit.*, vol. IV, p. 222.

181. *Ibid.*, p. 220.

182. Stephen, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 145.

183. *Letter to Court*, 24 March 1775, para. 22.

seems to have taken place soon after, because in a minute of 11 April 1775, by Clavering, Monson and Francis, the Company's officers at Murshidabad, Dacca and in the neighbourhood of Calcutta are said to have been arrested, and the arrests are said to have produced universal alarm. The minute goes on to say that "if the officers by whom the revenue is collected are to be liable to arrest for acts done in the discharge of their official duty, and if debtors arrested by them...are to be set at liberty by writ of habeas corpus, it will be impossible to collect the revenue".¹⁸⁴ Soon after this came the Nandakumar case, which precipitated an acrimonious quarrel between the Court and the majority of the Council. Nandakumar was committed to gaol on the forgery charge on 6 May 1775. On the 8th he addressed a petition to the Council praying that he should be shifted from the gaol where he had been imprisoned, to some other place, since he could not partake of food in the gaol, owing to reasons of religion. The majority resolved to request the Sheriff and the Deputy Sheriff to attend the Board with the warrant of Nandakumar's commitment issued by Justices Le Maistre and Hyde. After examining these officers, they further resolved to direct them to wait on the Chief Justice on the part of the Board, and "to desire that the Chief Justice will consider of granting the prisoner such relief as may be consistent with the strict security of his person to answer to the charges brought against him..."¹⁸⁵ Hastings objected, but Clavering replied: "...the protection of the inhabitants of Bengal is immediately trusted to our care, and that it properly belongs to us to represent to the Judges such matters as may appear to us wherein they have acted improperly, either wilfully or ignorantly". The Judges resented the interference of the Council, but, after consulting the *pandits*, ordered such arrangements to be made in the gaol as might make it possible for Nandakumar to partake of food in it without violence to his caste. On 20 May, Justices Le Maistre and Hyde wrote to the Council asking for a copy of such part of the Council's consultations as mentioned them by name. Hastings and Barwell were in favour of granting the requisition, but the majority were opposed to it, and it was resolved to inform Justices Le Maistre and Hyde that the requisition could not be complied with. Those gentlemen repeated the requisition once more on 25 May, saying that "the characters of Supreme Magistrates are much too sacred to be a subject of your correspondence, and more particularly for so public a correspondence as yours is with the Court of Directors", and adding, "Should there appear upon your minutes, when they come to be made public, any insinuation or reflection...upon our or either of our characters,...we shall hold every individual at your Board who joins in such defamation as personally responsible to us to the utmost extent of the law of England".¹⁸⁶ The majority adhered

184. Stephen, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 133.

185. Forrest, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 371.

186. *Ibid.*, pp. 339-400.

to their original decision not to supply copies of their proceedings.¹⁸⁷

During the trial of Nandakumar, it seems that the Court required the Secretary of the Council to attend the Court with some of the records of his office which would be called for in the course of the trial. The Board directed the Secretary to attend accordingly, but to submit to the Court that the exhibition of their records in open court "might be attended with many ill consequences as they often contain secrets of the utmost importance to the interest and even safety of the State."¹⁸⁸ The matter seems to have been dropped at the time, but the same question arose again when John Stewart, a Secretary of the Council who had been dismissed from his office, brought an action in the Supreme Court. His attorney addressed the Assistant Secretary of the Council to produce in the Court certain records said to be required for the information of the Court in his client's suit. A majority of the Board, consisting of Hastings, Monson and Francis, resolved not to comply with the requisition. The Chief Justice pronounced this to be a positive denial of justice, insisted on the Assistant Secretary's disclosing how the members of the Council had voted, and declared that the members who had voted against the production of the records were liable to separate actions for damages on the part of the plaintiff. The Council thereupon ordered extracts of the relevant records to be prepared.¹⁸⁹ These extracts, however, were not deemed sufficient by the Court. The original consultations had to be carried to the Court, and the counsel for the plaintiff read from them such of the opinions of the individual members of the Board as he thought proper, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the Company's counsel and officers¹⁹⁰. The Council, in acquainting the Directors with these happenings, pointed out that if the caprice or ignorance of an attorney were to expose the transactions of the Board, and even the most secret directions of the Directors to it, 'to the curiosity and comments of every bystander in a public court, perhaps to the avowed enemies of the Company and nation', and if the Governor-General and Council, on refusing to produce them, are to be charged with 'positive denial of justice', and to be liable to damages, it would be impossible for the Council to 'act with vigour, with secrecy, with freedom of debate or with personal safety.'¹⁹¹ Further, they pointed out that if the Board were to have no power to suspend any of the Company's servants, or if any servant who felt himself aggrieved were free immediately to seek redress from the Supreme Court, the Company's authority would be degraded in the eyes of its own servants, and it would be impossible to maintain any control or discipline over them.¹⁹²

187. Appendix XXIII, *letter from Hastings to Court*, 31 July 1775, para. 29.

188. *Letter to Court*, 3 August 1775, para. 29.

189. *Letter to Court*, 29 November 1775, paras. 1-4.

190. *Letter to Court*, 15 January 1776, para. 29.

191. *Letter to Court*, 29 November 1775, paras. 6-7.

192. *Letter to Court*, 15 January 1776, para. 31.

Another occasion of conflict between the Council and the Supreme Court occurred in connection with the trial, above referred to, of Nandakumar, Fowke and Rai Radhacharan for conspiracy. Radhacharan happened to be the *vakil* of Mubarakud-Daulah, the then Nawab of Bengal. On 20 June 1775, the majority of the Council addressed the Supreme Court, enclosing a memorial from Radhacharan and claiming for him, as ambassador of a sovereign prince, the rights, privileges and immunities allowed by the law of nations and the statute law of England. "We therefore claim these rights in his behalf, and desire that the process against him may be void, and that the persons suing out and executing such process may be proceeded against in such manner as the law directs".¹⁹³ The judges resented the peremptory tone of the letter, and pointed out to the Governor-General and Council (in whose name the letter had been sent), that the Court could be properly approached in one of two ways only—either by motion made by counsel, or by petition.¹⁹⁴ On 28 June, Radhacharan's claim, and the question of sovereignty in Bengal which was intimately connected with it, were discussed in the Court at length. It was argued by the Company's counsel that the Nawab Mubarakud-Daulah was a sovereign prince. "He exercises criminal justice throughout his dominions, and signs the death warrants.... If the Nabob is not the Sovereign, I should be glad to know who is. Other European Settlements acknowledge the sovereignty of the Nabob.... The asserting that the Nabob is not the Sovereign would be productive of the most dreadful consequences. It would, in all probability, be productive of a war between us and the several European nations who have Settlements within the Provinces". On the other side, it was pointed out that the Nawab's power of signing death warrants was a mere formality, which had been left to the Nawab by the Company from political motives, and that the so-called standing army of the Nawab was a very inoffensive one.¹⁹⁵ Affidavits were also submitted by Radhacharan and Hastings. That of Radhacharan said that he had never before imagined that he would have been exempted from punishment because he was a *vakil*.¹⁹⁶ Hastings in his affidavit said that in 1772 the President and Council had, by their own authority, appointed a guardian to the Nawab and a *Diwan* for his household; that similarly the President and Council had, by their own authority, made arrangements for the administration of justice; that the management of the revenues had for some time past been entirely in the hands of Company; and that the stipends of the Nawab had been reduced by the order of the Company issued in April 1771. The judges decided unanimously against Radhacharan's claim. Le Maistre spoke of the Nawab as 'this phantom, this man of straw', and Impey as 'a mere empty name, without any legal

193. Stephen, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 194.

194. Forrest, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 404.

195. W.K. Firminger, *The Fifth Report from the Select Committee on the Affairs of the East India Company*, vol. I, pp. xv-xvii.

196. Stephen, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 200.

right, or exercise of any power whatever'. Impey also commented severely on the concluding part of the majority's letter, characterising it as 'indecent and unjust'.¹⁹⁷

The Radhacharan case had raised the interesting question of sovereignty in Bengal, on which, as Firminger has pointed out, there was a clear difference of principles between Hastings and Francis.¹⁹⁸ Francis was in a way the inheritor of Clive's policy of double government; but he went further than Clive and held that under a European power it was impossible for Bengal to flourish, and that it was necessary for the Company to recognise the sovereignty of the Mughal, and of his deputy, the Nawab.

After the Court had delivered judgment on Radhacharan's claim, the majority of the Council addressed another letter to the judges, enclosing the translation of a letter from Mubarakud-Daulah in which he had said that he considered it a disgrace and indignity upon himself that a complaint against his *vakil* should be heard in the Court, and asking how they were to act thereafter with respect to death-warrants, or "what answer we must give to the Foreign companies, and particularly the French nation, who...maintain that the proceedings of Courts of Dewanny against their subjects...are direct attacks of the English nation against that of France".¹⁹⁹ They meant that if the Nawab was not sovereign in Bengal, the *Diwani* Courts were left without any legal authority, and their action was therefore the exercise of mere brute force.

Warren Hastings wrote to the Directors on 31 July 1775 to defend his conduct in making the affidavit he had made; he had betrayed no secret in that affidavit, since it mentioned nothing that had not already been published in Parliamentary proceedings, and the Court's judgment involved no dangerous consequences such as a war with France, because the disguise of the double government had for long ceased to deceive anybody. He also defended his own and Barwell's conduct in not signing the letters to the judges. They had not signed the letter of 20 June because they considered the act "illegal in itself and highly disrespectful in the manner of it".²⁰⁰

The trial of Nandakumar for forgery went on from 8 to 16 June 1775. As has been already mentioned, he was convicted and sentenced to be hanged. The execution took place on 5 August. On 14 August, Clavering presented to the Council a petition which he had received from Nandakumar the day before the execution. Clavering said that as he thought that the paper might contain a request to intercede for Nandkumar, which he (Clavering) had resolved not to do, he had not looked at the paper until after the execution. The letter was read and considered. Hastings moved that as it contained expressions reflecting on the character

197. Stephen, *op. cit.* vol. I, p. 198.

198. Firminger, *op. cit.*, p. xiv.

199. *Ibid.*, pp. xviii-xix.

200. Appendix XXIII. letter from Hastings to Court, 31 July 1775, paras. 31-7.

of the judges, a copy might be sent to them. Ultimately it was resolved, on Francis' motion, that as the petition was a libel it should be ordered to be burnt publicly by the common hangman, and its entry expunged from the records of the Council. On 28 August, the judges wrote to the Council thanking the latter for having ordered a paper containing a libellous charge against them (the judges) to be burnt, and asked for a copy of the paper and of any minutes relating to it in the proceedings of the Council. They further enclosed copies of certain addresses received by them in the preceding month, testifying to the high reputation which the Court had acquired in the country, and asked that these addresses might be recorded in the books of the Council. The addresses were four in number: one was from the Grand Jury to Impey individually; another, also addressed to Impey personally, was by the free merchants, free mariners and other inhabitants of the town of Calcutta, and was signed by eighty-four Europeans; the third was signed by forty-three Armenians and was addressed to all the judges; and the fourth was signed by about a hundred leading Indian citizens of Calcutta and the neighbourhood. The Council refused to give the judges copies of their minutes, or to enter the addresses on their records.

In both the cases against Nandakumar—for conspiracy and for forgery—Kamalud-Din, the farmer of Hijili, was one of the principal witnesses. His under-farmer (and, in fact, the real farmer) was one Basanta Rai. He had a security by name Sukhdeb Mullick. In September 1774, Kamalud-Din had informed two members of the Calcutta Committee that the rents would thenceforward be paid by Basanta Rai. From that time upto May 1775 the demands had been made on Basanta Rai, and he had paid them. In June 1775, however, the demand was made on Kamalud-Din. Kamalud-Din replied that he had no concern in the farm, and that the demand should be made on Basanta Rai. On 11 July, Kamalud-Din was called before the Committee for the first time since September 1774. On 25 July, he was committed to custody in the house of the Committee. He was brought up by a writ of habeas corpus before the Supreme Court which released him on bail about the 10th of September. The Court also ordered that he was not to be taken into custody again till his under-renter had been called upon to pay the arrears and had proved insolvent. This the Council regarded as usurpation of their rights as *Diwan*. They considered that the Regulating Act had given them exclusive control over the management of the revenues, and that the Supreme Court was not empowered to take cognizance of any matter relating to the revenues. The majority of the Council were, therefore, of opinion that the Provincial Council should be directed to take Kamalud-Din into custody again, and to pay no attention to any order of the judges in any matter which solely concerned the revenues. Francis, however, would not assent to this proposal unless it was supported by the Governor-General, and Hastings having refused his support the proposal remained without effect.²⁰¹

201. Appendix XXVII, letter from Hastings to Court, 22 September 1775, paras. 4-7.

In a letter to the Directors Impey made a defence of the conduct of the Court. The Court, he said, made no claim to jurisdiction over the original cause; they were only concerned to prevent the officers of Government, under the colour of legal proceeding, from being guilty of injustice. "The Court, allowing the custom and usage of the collections to be the law of the country, have only compelled the officers of the Government to act conformable to those usages, and not to make use of the colour and forms of law to the oppression of the people".²⁰²

Besides questioning the competence of the Court in revenue matters, the Council raised the question whether the Court had the power of issuing writs of habeas corpus, since neither the Regulating Act nor the Charter made specific mention of such power.²⁰³

The conflict between the Court and the Council, thus begun, was only ended by the passage of the Amending Act of 1781. That legislation was prompted partly by the representations which the despatches from Calcutta had led the Court of Directors to make to the Ministry in November 1777, and partly by two famous cases known as the Patna case and the Kasijora case.

(3) *Council and Board of Trade*

After the passage of the Regulating Act, the Directors thought it desirable to separate the commercial business of the Company from the revenue and governmental business. For the former, they created a Board of Trade consisting of eleven senior servants. Seven of the eleven were constantly to reside in Calcutta; four were to be appointed Chiefs of subordinate factories or Residents at *aurangs*.²⁰⁴ The Board were to appoint subordinate officers under them among the covenanted servants of the Company, but there was to be a clear separation between the revenue work and the management of trade, and no person was to be employed in both departments at the same time.²⁰⁵ The Governor-General and Council were to place the necessary funds at the disposal of the Board of Trade; if, at any time, an investment larger than what the finances permitted was required, the Council was to signify to the Board what diminution was necessary, and was to direct them to limit their purchases accordingly.²⁰⁶ No treaty was to be concluded by the Council, without the opinion of the Board being taken on it, if the treaty was likely to affect the Company's trade. All the proceedings of the Board of Trade and any communications that the Board might wish to make to the Directors were to be sent to the Directors through the Governor-General and Council, who were to keep themselves informed of the Board's proceedings. The Council was to assist the Board in obtaining payment of outstanding debts

202. Stephen, *op. cit.*, vol. II, pp. 186-87.

203. *Letter to Court*, 20 March 1776, paras. 16-8.

204. *Letter from Court*, 29 March 1774, paras. 4, 6.

205. *Ibid.*, para. 4.

206. *Ibid.*, paras. 14, 17.

from Indian manufacturers, whenever its assistance was called for by the Board, and was to co-operate with the Board in every way.²⁰⁷

These exhortations to ensure harmony and cordial co-operation proved no more effective than those addressed to the members of the Council themselves. Differences arose from the very beginning. As early as January 1775 the Board claimed that the management of the salt business (which, along with opium, had been made a monopoly of the Company by Hastings) should be transferred to them as it was commercial in nature. The Council, on the other hand, considered that business to be an object of revenue and therefore properly to come under its management, even according to the Regulating Act.²⁰⁸ The Board also demanded that since they had their own establishment of officers separate from that under the Council, they should be allowed to appoint separate surgeons for their own department in the subordinate factories; to which the Council replied that the two cases were not similar, because whereas different qualifications were required for commercial and revenue work, "no peculiar qualification was required for the surgeon of one department more than the other".²⁰⁹ At the same time it seems the Council expected the surgeons stationed at the factories to be paid by the Board of Trade; but the Board refused to pay their salaries unless the surgeons consented to give up their places in the general cadre of surgeons and to place themselves solely under the Commercial Department.²¹⁰

The selection of officers for the Commercial Department seems also to have created difficulties. The Board complained to the Directors that the Council had taken away from them certain persons whom it had at first released. The Council explained that its first approval was only tentative, but when the cases of persons selected for the Commercial Department were looked into more closely, it was found that some persons were being removed from better situations, or from situations in which they were more useful. Only such persons were therefore recalled, and that also before they had really been properly established in the other department. The Council added that such cases would occur but rarely in future, but they could not agree with the Board that they had no right to remove servants from the Commercial Department without the Board's consent. It seems also that the Board had asked the Council to furnish them with a list of the allowances to the servants in its (Council's) Department, which the Council did not comply with : the Council explained to the Directors that the reason for their conduct was that they thought any allowances in the Commercial Department "should be founded on reasons drawn from their own situation than from any comparison with ours".²¹¹

The amount of the investment provided yet another occasion for

207. *Letter from Court*, 29 March 1774, paras. 3, 11, 18, 21, 24.

208. *Letter to Court*, 24 February 1775, para. 19.

209. *Ibid.*, para. 20.

210. *Letter to Court*, 20 November 1775, para. 33.

211. *Letter to Court*, 24 March 1775, postscript.

dispute. The Board wanted a provision in 1775 of some 83 lakhs; the Council thought that considering the amount of shipping available they must limit the investment to 70 lakhs. The Board protested that Council had no right to limit the investment for any reason other than insufficiency of finance. The Council refused either to increase the provision or to enter into a discussion with Board about their rights;²¹² but, on the Board strongly representing that they would be embarrassed by having to cancel orders already given, that in fact the whole business of their Department would be thrown into confusion since the manufactures, for which money had been advanced in part, would remain unfinished for want of means to complete them, the Council consented to allow an increase of 4 lakhs in the investment, leaving them, however, responsible for any goods that might remain on their hands for lack of shipping.²¹³

The Board of Trade asked the Council for guards of sepoys at the *aurangs* for the protection of the goods. The Council refused the request on the ground that it was undesirable to disperse the troops in that manner and suggested to the Board employment of *bargandazes*.²¹⁴ However, on a special application from the Board for guards at Radhanagar and Khirpai which were represented to be infested with robbers, guards were allowed at these two factories. The Council, however, considered that with the organisation of a regular police force special sepoy-guards at factories were not necessary, and if any additional protection was needed it would be more economical for the Board to employ common peons than for the Council to increase the militia establishment.²¹⁵ The sepoy-guards were accordingly to have been withdrawn on 1 May 1776, but as the Board of Trade wrote again in a very pressing manner, desiring the Council to continue the guards and representing that the Company's property would be exposed to great danger by their removal, the Council found it necessary to revoke their former decision and to increase the militia establishment proportionately. They, however, refused the Board's request to station a guard at Rangpur as well.²¹⁶

On one occasion the Board refused to lade on a Bombay-bound ship a certain quantity of saltpetre which the Council desired should be so sent, alleging that they had engaged other ships for that service. The Council questioned their authority to freight any vessel on the Company's account without their assent or directions, and submitted the propriety of the Board's conduct to the Directors' determination. On another occasion, the Board refused to accept the house offered to them by the Council for the use of their President.²¹⁷ They protested against the Council's failure to consult them regarding the treaty with Asafud-Daulah. The Council justified

212. *Letter to Court*, 16 May 1775, paras. 6-9.

213. *Letter to Court*, 3 August 1775, paras. 11-2.

214. *Letter to Court*, 16 May 1775, para. 12.

215. *Letter to Court*, 20 March 1776, para. 8.

216. *Letter to Court*, 12 September 1776, paras. 11-2.

217. *Letter to Court*, 20 November 1775, paras. 16, 31, 32.

themselves on the ground that the Directors' instructions bound them to consult the Board not about every treaty but only when the Company's commerce was likely to be affected.²¹⁸ •

It fell to the Directors to decide these disputes between the Council and the Board. They expressed their great concern at the misunderstanding between the two bodies and once more enjoined the observance and cultivation of harmony.²¹⁹ As regards the salt business, they had already given their decision, drawing a distinction between salt as an article of revenue, in which aspect the Governor-General and Council were to deal with it, and salt as an article of commerce, which must be in the charge of the Board of Trade. A similar procedure was also to apply to opium, the provision of it being left to the Revenue Council at Patna, but the sale to the Board of Trade.²²⁰ As regards the amount of the investment, the decisive voice must be with the Governor-General and Council, as they alone could have a certain knowledge of what could be applied to that purpose, but the executive part of the business must rest with the Board. The Board of Trade had no just ground of complaint for having been ignored when the treaties with Asafud-Daulah, Chait Singh and the Marathas were negotiated. The business of transportation of goods from one port to another in India, when the Company's ships were not available, was a commercial matter, and should be referred by the Governor-General and Council to the Board of Trade. The Board of Trade had a right to suspend the servants in their Department, and the Governor-General and Council had no right to interfere. Finally, though surgeons at the commercial factories were, so long as they resided there, to be under the control of the Board of Trade, they were subject to be recalled by the Governor-General and Council.²²¹

IV

Miscellaneous

(1) *Exploration*

Even after the Company had been firmly established in Bengal the Directors were still urging their servants to explore further regions with a view to finding further openings for lucrative trade. As "the benefits that may be obtained by exploring the interior parts of Bhutan, Assam and other countries adjacent to Gaulparah" had been brought to their notice, they directed the Presidency of Bengal "to make these matters the objects of your particular and immediate enquiry, and report.....in what manner and to what extent the Company may be benefited, by opening a trade to those countries."²²² The Presidency had, some time before this, come

218. *Letter to Court*, 20 November 1775, para. 23.

219. *Letter from Court*, 24 December 1776, para. 54.

220. *Letter from Court*, 15 December 1775 (2nd letter), paras. 40-1.

221. *Letter from Court*, 24 December 1776, paras. 55-9.

222. *Letter from Court*, 7 January 1774, para. 13.

into conflict with Bhutan, as the Bhutanese had invaded Cooch Behar, and the Raja of Cooch Behar, who was a minor, had, through his minister Nazir Dev, approached the Presidency for assistance to drive out the invader. He had offered, in return for such assistance, to pay half the revenues of his country to the Company. The Presidency agreed to these terms, "more", as they said, "in consideration of the peace and security of our present possessions than any advantage to be derived from the new acquisition we were flattered with; for...your District of Rungpore has been frequently exposed to the incursions of the Boutanners".²²³ At the same time they took the precaution of adding a clause to the treaty which subjected it to ratification by the Directors, a precaution which was rewarded with the appreciation of the Directors.²²⁴ The Company's force drove out the Bhutanese, and invaded them in their own territories. Ultimately, on the intercession of the Teshu Lama of Tibet, a treaty of peace was negotiated in 1774. Warren Hastings took advantage of this communication with the Teshu Lama to send a commission to Tibet under William Bogle,²²⁵ who thus became the first Englishman to visit Tibet. The mission, however, did not succeed in reaching Lhasa.

The exploration of Assam was entrusted to Baillie, from whom the suggestion to explore the interior parts of Bhutan, Assam, etc. had originally come, and who had been recommended for the purpose by the Directors.²²⁶

Another enterprise which the Company undertook about the same time, but which ended in dismal failure, was their attempt to establish a factory at Balambangan, a small island to the north of Borneo (about 117°E, 7°N). The British obtained possession of the island and wished to make it an emporium, drawing to it the commodities of China and of the Eastern countries. Some officers were deputed to promote the new settlement, and the *Britannia* brought from England goods suitable for Balambangan market—like iron and woollens..., and the other Presidencies were also asked to assist Balambangan with whatever goods they indented for.²²⁷ Bengal accordingly sent 350 chests of opium,²²⁸ and also paid their draft amounting to 1,60,000 Arcot rupees. Altogether, up to March 1774, Bengal had helped Balambangan to the extent of Rs. 9,51,756-7-3. The amount appeared so considerable that the President and Council of Bengal thought it necessary to stop further assistance till they received the Directors' orders, and requested to be informed more circumstantially of the success of the undertaking.²²⁹ It was a wise precaution, because the

223. Monckton-Jones, *op. cit.*, p. 212.

224. *Letter from Court*, 30 March 1774, para. 9.

225. Gleig, *op. cit.*, vol. I, pp. 411-2.

226. *Letter to Court*, 17 October 1774, para. 69.

227. *Letter from Court*, 20 October 1773, para. 12.

228. *Letter to Court*, 1 March 1773, paras. 13, 24.

229. *Letter to Court*, 15 March 1774, paras. 16-7.

undertaking was indeed faring badly. Already, the Presidency had received news that at Sulu in the north of Borneo a revolution had taken place, which put the son of the late Sultan in the place of his father in the Government, and that the young man seemed to show a jealousy of so near an English establishment as that of Balambangan. This was a bad news, but it was, at any rate, qualified by the further statement that the rulers of certain other neighbouring principalities were more friendly.²³⁰ More alarming to the Directors were the grandiose schemes of their Chief and Council at Balambangan, which induced them to send immediately 'restrictive orders' on their 'expensive plan of conduct'.²³¹ It seems that Herbert, the Chief, and his colleagues were looking to their own private interest at the expense of their employers and were behaving in a reprehensible manner. They, therefore, decided to dismiss Herbert and his colleagues, and to appoint in their place Nairne, Ewart and Lennox—Ewart being from the Bombay establishment and the other two from Fort Marlbro'.²³² Before, however, the new Council could take over, disaster overtook the settlement at Balambangan which was attacked and plundered by the people of Sulu. The Company's servants escaped to Labuan, an island 6 miles from the north-west coast of Borneo. The news was brought to Bengal by Sir John Clarke, commander of the King's ship *Dolphin*, which had carried from the Presidency some opium to Balambangan.²³³ Sir John returned with the opium because he found nobody there to receive it except one Barton, who had been sent by Herbert from Labuan to inform any ships touching Balambangan of the event. The Council obtained from Sir John Clarke all the information which he had been able to gather from Barton, from which it seemed to them that Herbert had been warned of the impending attack, but had not taken adequate steps to meet it. The attack was the act of one of the nobles of Sulu, done without the authority of the Sultan. Sir John Clarke, with a view to obtaining reparation, if possible, sought an interview with the Sultan "who received his messenger.....in the most arrogant and haughty manner directing him to acquaint his master that he might come but must guard his expressions with the greatest caution. Sir John attended on the Sultan, and got him to acknowledge the justice of his cause, and even to give hopes of redress, but expecting to receive less than his demand, he delivered an estimate of damages amounting to 400,000 dollars" (whereas the real loss amounted to only 3½ lakhs of rupees). The Sultan offered only 10,000 dollars, a sum so small that it "seemed rather to carry signs of derision than a wish to redress".²³⁴

Such was the end of the Balambangan enterprise.

230. *Letter to Court*, 1 March 1773, para. 26.

231. *Letter from Court*, 20 October 1773, para. 11.

232. *Letter from Court*, 23 December 1774, para. 37.

233. *Letters to Court*, 16 May 1775, para. 14; 3 August 1775, para. 10.

234. *Letter to Court*, 20 November 1776, 18-21.

(2) *Relations with Other European Powers*

The general policy of the Directors in relation to the other European powers in India was one of moderation combined with watchfulness. Thus, although the company held the monopoly of saltpetre, they always supplied a certain quantity to the foreign companies. There was a certain amount of trade jealousy with the Dutch: the Dutch at Batavia imposed a prohibition on trading in Indian goods, by foreign vessels, with their Settlements;²³⁵ but this was on a par with the policy which England herself pursued in her Navigation Laws. We hear of the Dutch at Batavia refusing to provide supplies to a Bombay ship except for ready money—a refusal which the commander of the ship ascribed to their jealousy of the proceedings of the British Company to the eastward²³⁶. On another occasion, the captain of a British ship reported that while on his way from Madras to Balambangan he saluted the Dutch fort at Malacca with 9 guns, but the Dutch returned only 5 without any excuse or apology. On that the Presidency of Bengal directed all captains of ships on arriving at a foreign port first to send someone ashore to know what number of guns would be returned, before giving any salute.²³⁷

The greatest trouble was with the French. In Europe, France had been waiting for an opportunity to have her revenge on England for her defeat in the Seven Years' War—an opportunity which was soon presented by the revolt of the American colonies. It was natural that the strained relations between the two governments should be reflected in the doings of the two companies in India. During the period of misrule in Bengal—between 1757 and 1772, when the old Government had become powerless and the English had not yet assumed responsibility for government—both the English and the French had been guilty of oppression against Indians, such as forcing contracts on poor Indian artisans, putting defaulters and debtors into prison, and subjecting them to harsh treatment, etc.²³⁸ Now that the English Company had stood forth as the *Diwan* and had practically taken upon themselves the whole government of the country, such practices on their part had ceased; but the French continued them on the ground of old usage and felt it a humiliation to take their cases to the courts, which, while Indian in name, were really controlled by Englishmen.²³⁹ They complained that the English were putting obstacles in the way of their trade by stopping their boats coming up to Chandernagore and that they had forcibly driven them from a place which they had bought in order to transfer their factory of Jagdia to that place.²⁴⁰ The Chief of Dacca, Des Granges, complained that a *jamadar* belonging to his factory had been publicly flogged by order of Barwell, then Chief of the English

235. *Letter to Court*, 1 March 1773, paras. 18-21.

236. *Letter to Court*, 15 March 1774, para. 11.

237. *Letter to Court*, 1 March 1773, para. 16.

238. Firminger, *op. cit.* vol. I, p. xc.

239. Forrest, *op. cit.*, vol. I, pp. 13-5.

240. *Ibid.*, pp. 15-7.

factory at Dacca (the fact being that the *jamadar* had been flogged by order of the *Adalat* at Dacca);²⁴¹ and Chevalier, Commandant for the French Government at Chandernagore, sent a formal protest and declared that he had ordered the French factory at Dacca to be evacuated, because they could no longer remain there with honour or safety.²⁴²

The President and Council of Bengal wrote to the Directors about these disputes in March 1774 and sought their instructions, which were given in the Directors' letter of 3 March 1775. They are admirable in their combination of reasonableness with firmness. The Directors say that in the altered conditions of Bengal it is their duty to give protection to the persons and property of the inhabitants of Bengal, and they will not allow the French to practise oppressions on Indian manufacturers and thereby to obtain commercial advantages. "Having submitted to prove our own debts by established forms of law in Bengal, and to recover them by regular process therein, we can never contribute towards enslaving the natives by compelling them to yield an implicit obedience to the mandates of the French, in matters of private property". The French must not be obstructed in the recovery of their debts by due course of law; but they must not take the law into their own hands. They must also pay the usual customs duties, and must not be allowed to abuse the privilege of the *dastak* by not only concealing their own merchandise but also covering the goods of other persons, and thereby defrauding the Government of its revenue (as, it will be remembered, the English themselves had formerly done and thereby brought on the conflict with Mir Qasim). On the whole, a distinction must be made between French *rights* and French *claims*. If they want to erect new factories, they must approach the Nawab, but the Governor-General and Council must "use their utmost endeavours to engage the Nabob to prevent all such establishments". At the same time the Governor-General and Council must take care to prevent arbitrary exactions on the part of the country Government, "without appearing more than is absolutely necessary as principals in any disputes which may happen between the natives of Bengal, and the subjects of any European prince or state in amity with Great Britain".²⁴³

One of the instructions issued by the Directors after the passage of the Regulating Act required the Governor-General and Council to communicate "the most regular and precise intelligence...respecting the commerce, the number of forces, and the general strength of all foreign companies in India".²⁴⁴ This instruction was repeated and emphasised in 1776, with particular reference to France, after the American colonies had resorted to arms, and when the intervention of France on their side seemed only a question of time.²⁴⁵ Accordingly, when Clavering, Monson and Francis

241. Forreast, *op. cit.*, vol. I, pp. 109-10.

242. *Letter to Court*, 25 April 1774, para. 2.

243. *Letter from Court*, 3 March 1775, paras. 54-69.

244. *Letter from Court*, 29 March 1774, para. 27.

245. *Letter from Court*, 5 April 1776, paras. 22-3.

touched at the Cape on their voyage to India, they collected what information they could about the strength of French forces in that part of the world, and communicated that information, as also information about the movements of French and Spanish ships, to the Directors.²⁴⁶ Again, similar news about the strength of the French forces at Mauritius and Bourbon, obtained 'from a person who was lately at Mauritius', was communicated by Clavering in his letter addressed to the Directors on 21 July 1775.²⁴⁷

The rising feeling between the two nations is seen in the refusal of the French to allow their ships, sailing up the Ganges, to be stopped and inspected by the English at Budge-Budge. On 4 August 1776, three French ships tried to pass Budge-Budge and Fort William without stopping, and had to be fired on. The French commandant claimed that they had equal rights with the English in Bengal, and that the navigation of the Ganges must be free to all nations who possessed settlements on its banks. The English, on the other hand, rested their claim on long unchallenged practice, and on the right of all nations to control the navigation of their inland rivers.²⁴⁸ One can see that the question at bottom was whether the English Company was the sovereign power in Bengal.

A new European rival to the Company—though destined to be short-lived—appeared in 1776. An Austrian East India Company was projected by the Empress Maria Theresa. She enlisted for this purpose the services of William Bolts, a Dutch adventurer, who had for some time been in the service of the English East India Company, and having been reprimanded by the Court of Directors for using the Company's authority to further his own private trade, had resigned their service (1 November 1776), been deported to England, and written there the well-known *Considerations on India Affairs*. A ship laden with merchandise and military stores, and carrying some Austrian soldiers, sailed from Leghorn, a port in Tuscany (which at this time belonged to Austria), on 25 September 1776 for the coast of Coromandel. The Directors conveyed this news to the Presidency of Bengal, and directed them "to pursue the most effectual means that can be fully justified to counteract and defeat" the project; it was necessary to hinder the scheme at the very beginning, because if the adventurers met with only indifferent success in the first attempt, it would discourage them in pursuing the scheme further. The servants of the Company and other persons under their protection were to be stopped from entering into any commercial or other intercourse with the new adventurers, and if there were any British subjects among the latter, they were to be arrested and deported to Great Britain, as they could not legally remain in India without the Company's licence.²⁴⁹

246. Appendix VII, letter from Clavering, Monson and Francis to Court, 16 July 1774, paras. 3-7.

247. Appendix XXII, letter from Clavering to Court, 21 July 1775, para. 6.

248. Letter to Court, 22 August 1776, paras. 3-11.

249. Letter from Court, 24 December 1776, paras. 21-7.

Bolts succeeded in establishing some six establishments in India, but as Maria Theresa died in 1780 and Joseph II did not pursue the scheme, nothing came out of it.

(3) *Currency and Banking*

One question, which had important bearing on the prosperity of the country and required early solution, was the question of currency. Rupee coins of various weights and degrees of fineness were current, the chief being the *sicca* rupee of Murshidabad, the Bombay or Surat rupee, and the Arcot rupee. But there were many other local rupees. Several districts in Bengal used rupees minted locally. When Shujaud-Daulah had to make payments to the Company he made them in Fyzabad rupees, and these had to be recoined into Arcot rupees.²⁵⁰ But even the *sicca* rupee did not retain a uniform value throughout. It was supposed to lose in value when it became old (*sanwat*). The loss was partly, but only partly, justified by the wear and tear of the coin due to absence of copper alloy. This multiplicity of coins and uncertainty of their value benefited nobody except the shroffs or money-changers. The Directors were particularly impressed with the difficulties involved in the arbitrary distinction between *sicca* and *sanwat*, and recommended the Bengal Government "to establish an equitable rupee for the Province, with a *batta* proportioned to its real value..."²⁵¹ The Bengal Government wrote in reply to say that they had "long wished to take up the subject and form some lasting regulations", but that there were many difficulties in the way, arising from the vested interests of the shroffs, the composition of the *sicca* rupee (which was 'not sufficiently tempered with alloy to make it hard and durable'), and 'the natural repugnancy inherent in the subjects of any country to a material innovation in its current coinage'.²⁵²

A bank started by Warren Hastings which, however, proved short-lived, was partly connected with the currency problem. Since the Collectors received the revenues from the *zamindars* and farmers in different kinds of rupees, they wrote to Calcutta asking for instructions about the *batta* to be charged on the several kinds, and also how they were to remit the amounts to the Presidency. Transfer of specie from one place to another was in those days attended with the risk of dacoities, and only a military escort was considered adequate.²⁵³ The merchant who bought the produce of the country found the same difficulty in making payments. Hastings thought that the only expedient for meeting these difficulties was the setting up of a bank which should have its head office in Calcutta and branches in district towns. The branches would receive revenue payments from the Collectors in the current coin of the particular district, and issue bills for the same on Calcutta. Merchants who had to make payments in

250. *Letter to Court*, 3 August 1775, para. 20.

251. *Letter from Court*, 3 March 1775, para. 102.

252. *Letter to Court*, 20 November 1775, para. 37.

253. Monckton-Jones, *op. cit.*, pp. 253-54.

the mofussil would also make them through bills of the bank. The Bank was instituted in April 1773, two leading shroffs of Calcutta being appointed managers. The Court of Directors, however, pointed out that the setting up of the Bank meant only that the whole business of the movement of the Government's revenues was placed in the hands of the managers of the Bank, and that the Government derived no benefit from its institution.²⁵⁴ Francis and his party were also opposed to the institution of the Bank. They abolished it in February 1775, and the Directors approved of the abolition.²⁵⁵

(4) *Introduction of English Law*

Another question, which was much discussed at this time, was that of the introduction of English law into Bengal. The second half of the eighteenth century was an age of self-complacency in England, and there were many people then who looked upon English law as the embodiment of perfection, and thought that its introduction into India would be a boon to her people. Others, with Indian experience, held a different view. Verelst devoted a chapter of his *View of the Rise, Progress and Present State of the English Government in Bengal* to show why English law should not be introduced into India. Warren Hastings got some *pandits* to compile a code of Hindu law: this code was translated into Persian, and from Persian into English, and Hastings sent copies of this to the Directors and also to Dr. Johnson and Lord Mansfield. In the letter to Dr. Johnson, Hastings said that it had been "one of his first wishes to be able to free the inhabitants of this country from the reproach and barbarism, which has been undeservedly cast upon them by the too precipitate information of those who have wanted opportunities of knowing their real state".²⁵⁶

(5) *Other Matters of Interest*

The correspondence in our volume throws light on several other interesting points: The English in Bengal were aware that superiority of discipline alone could render their army formidable in India.²⁵⁷ At the same time they held that the supremacy of civil over military authority must be maintained,²⁵⁸ and there must be equal justice as between Indians and Englishmen. Thus four English soldiers were once condemned to be hanged for the murder of an Indian near Berhampore, "a severe, but necessary example"²⁵⁹. On another occasion, a *subahdar* complained of the conduct of a lieutenant commanding his corps, and the complaint having been found true the commanding officer was recalled, and he ultimately resigned

254. *Letter from Court*, 18 April 1774, paras. 8-15

255. *Letter from Court*, 15 December 1775 (2nd letter), para. 57.

256. Gleig, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 18.

257. *Letter to Court*, 31 March 1773, para. 27.

258. *Letter to Court*, 17 October 1774, para. 98.

259. *Letter to Court*, 15 March 1774, para. 99.

the service.²⁶⁰ When, however, a disgruntled sepoy officer shot his commanding officer dead, the culprit was immediately dragged to death by horses in front of the line.²⁶¹

Bombay, we notice, had in our period established a ship-building industry of which she could be proud, ships built there were cheap and yet superior.²⁶² The Directors would even have got a number of ships built at Bombay for their regular service, had it not been for the restrictions imposed by the Navigation Acts.²⁶³

260. *Letter to Court*, 12 September 1776, para. 85.

261. *Letter to Court*, 15 January 1773, para. 32.

262. *Letters to Court*, 1 March 1773, para. 7; 15 March 1774, para. 7.

263. *Letter to Court*, 20 November, 1775, para. 6.

LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 1773

Shipping news—appointments and transfers of civil servants—bill of exchange.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since we wrote to you by the *Latham* and *Lord Mansfield* under date the 15th December (triplicate whereof will be sent by the *Northington*) we have received by the *Clebrooke* which arrived the 18th ultimo the following advices :—

General Letters in the Public Department dated 13 and 21 April

—do—	Secret	13	—do—
—do—	Select Committee	11	—do—

2. The Ships *Northington* and *Houghton* are to come first at Madeira to receive on board two hundred pipes of wine for your Presidency. Our correspondents will furnish you with the proper documents; as for the other parts of their cargos you are referred to the invoices and bills of lading enclosed.

3. Mr. Francis Fowke whose health prevented him from proceeding to his station of a writer at your Presidency, at the time he was chosen being now recovered takes passage on the *Houghton* and is to rank agreeable to our appointment in his favour according to our letter of the 7th December 1769.

4. We have appointed Mr. John Petrie a factor in Bengal and to rank such from the time of his arrival the proceeds to his station on the *Egmont*.

5. James King whom we have appointed a writer at your establishment being as we are informed a cadet at Fort St. George, we have directed that Presidency to acquaint him of our appointment that he may proceed to Bengal accordingly.

6. As Edward Ephirium Pote one of the writers appointed last season for your Presidency who was then prevented proceeding thither by illness being recovered takes passage on the *Northington* and is to rank agreeable to his appointment.

7. We have drawn upon you a set of bills of exchange payable at thirty days sight.

One set for 1811.5.2 rupees being for pounds }	
sterling two hundred in favour of Warren }	
Hastings Esq. and Henry Martin Creswicke or }	Rupees £200
either of their orders received of Henry }	1811.5.2
Creswicke Esq.	

London,
6th January 1773.

We are
Your loving friends
G. Colebrooke/L. Sullivan/J. Manship/
Ben. Booth/Henry Savage/Peter Du
Cane Junr/George Cuming/Thos
Rumbold/Jno. Michie/J. Hurlock/
J. Lascelles/Henry Fletcher/Chas.
Boddam/J. Smith/Edwd. Wheler/ Thos.
Dethic/H. Crabb Boulton.

2

LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1773

Shipping arrangements for the China trade-pepper from west coast of India—import of gold or silver in England will be subject to customduties recruits for the Company's army—complaint of two soldiers of having been overcharged during passage home—bills of exchange.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The ships *Northington* and *Houghton* carried our letter of the 6th January, triplicate of which is sent per *Bridgewater*, the time of those ships sailing will appear by the accompanying list.

2. We shall only advise you by the ship *Bridgewater* now under dispatch of such particulars as relate to that ship, reserving our observations and directions on the advices received from your Presidency the last season till future opportunity.

3. We have taken into our most serious consideration the arrangements we had made relative to our China trade, and it having appeared expedient to alter the dispositions which had been settled on that point, we now communicate the same that you may as far as shall be in your power, to endeavour to second and promote our intention in that behalf to the Company's greater benefit.

4. We have ordered our China Council to endeavour to let two of the ships consigned to them to freight on country voyages to Fort St. George, Bengal, Bombay and other parts of the East Indies on the best terms they shall be able, but at least to compensate for the demorage that will be thereby incurred the said ships are to be returned to the said Council in such seasonable time the following year that they may be then enabled to dispatch them to Europe.

5. The China Council are further ordered if they shall learn from our servants on the West Coast that a surplus quantity of pepper will remain there more than will suffice for the cargoes of the ships *Alfred* and *Duke of Portland*, that they do dispatch one of the small ships consigned to

Canton with her proportion of China ware and raw silk to that Coast as expeditiously as possible, to be returned to us with such pepper and we have especially recommended it to the President and Council at Fort St. George to communicate the same to the West Coast by the earliest opportunity.

6. From the abovementioned and other particular circumstances^a which have lately happened, we have occasion to wish that some of our ships destined for China should be diverted in the manner before described from returning to Europe with teas; and we have recommende [d] it to our Presidency at Fort St. George to emply one of the ships ordered thither and China in the best manner they can either on freight or on the Company's account until the next season, when she must be sent to China, taking care that the Company may not be sufferers by the deviation.

7. We have been induced to order the deliver[y] duty free of a box of silver rupees amounting to about the [value] of one hundred and twenty pounds brought on the *Olive* by Major Watson for the use of Mrs. Gruebur as he could not procure bills of exchange for the same; but we repeat our orders of the 30th June 1769 that all gold and silver which may be hereafter imported under the like plea will be subject to the customary duty of five per cent to the Company, which must be manifested^a otherwise it will be seized; and you are at all times to discourage the exportation of gold and silver either in coin or bullion.

8. In order to remedy the frequent complaints received from India relative to the bad condition of the recruits, we have increased the standard from five feet two inches to five feet four inches and no men taken who shall exceed thirty five years of age. That previous to the ship leaving Gravesend the rec [ruits] are to be mustered by the Inspector of Recruits, the Company's surgeon at Gravesend, some officer under the department of our Committee of Shipping and the surgeon of the ship, and a roll drawn out and signed by those gentlemen, copy of which will be sent in the ship's packets.

9. We have also directed the commanders of our ships to furnish the recruits with such necessaries, as they shall absolutely stand in need of during the voyage which are put on board by us, and such transactions are to be entered in the log book, and also to enter in another book to be kept for that purpose, the account of necessaries furnished to each recruit either from the supplies put on board by the Company or those furnished by the captains, also to enter every transaction relating to recruits mentioning those who die or desert in the passage, the time of their death or desertion with every other occurrence, which book is to be signed by the commander, chief and second mates and surgeon, and a copy thereof is to be delivered to the President and Council where the recruits are landed.

10. On the landing of the recruits the Town Major or some other proper officer must muster them and report their condition to the Gover-

nor, remarking whether the men answer the description sent from hence, we have reason to apprehend this essential service has been greatly neglected. It is also necessary that the surgeon of the ship should attend when the recruits are mustered, that in case any of them are invalided it should be determined whether their complaints were acquired on board or previous to their embarkation, and return of the recruits by each ship, together with copy of the Town Major's or other officer's report, must be transmitted to us in duplicate.

11. We have upon the representations of Messrs. Thomas Edwards and William Foster, late cadets at your Presidency, permitted them to return to their stations, and on their arrival they are to take that rank they would have held had they not left India.

12. We have permitted several cadets who we[re] appointed last season, but did not then proceed to their stations to go this year without prejudice to their ranks, and on their arrival they must be provided for agreeable to the lists sent by the *Prince of Wales* and *Duke of Grafton*.

13. Notwithstanding our orders of the 23rd March 1770 for sending home such cadets who do not choose to remain in our military, and who enter into other employs, we have reason to believe they have been evaded, and that several persons who went out as cadets have quitted that service, are employed in civil stations without our authority. We therefore positively direct that you do on this receipt hereof send such to England by the first ships, as we will not suffer any of them to remain in India under such notorious breach of contract with us.

14. Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Dow whose ill state of health prevented him from proceeding to his station at your Presidency being recovered, he took passage on the *Sturmount* (by the way of Fort St. George); on his arrival he is to take rank next below Lieutenant Colonel John Cummings agreeable to the commission we have given him.

15. Lieutenant John Cowe who came to England with your permission now returns to the rank he would have held had he not come to Europe.

16. The friends of Patrick Dillon a private soldier at your Presidency having paid us for the charges we have been at on his account, he is on the receipt hereof to be discharged and permitted to return to England.

17. Complaint has been made to us by two soldiers lately returned from India, that after serving their contracted time, they had been required and obliged to pay ten guineas each for their passage home, without which condition they assured us they could neither procure an order to any captain in our service to take them on board nor would any captain receive them. As we highly condemn such a practice, both because we think it not equitable towards the parties, and that the continuance of it would rather tend to injure than to benefit the service, you will take particular care that nothing of this kind be repeated, and th[at] every soldier who shall have served his contracted time, and cannot be

prevailed upon to re-enlist by fair means, be sent home as a charterparty passenger, without being required or suffered to pay anything towards his passage.

18. Mr. John Lediard sent to his nephew (whom we had appointed a cadet at your Presidency) fifty pounds in foreign silver on the *Prince of Wales* in 1772 but having since heard of his death, we direct that the same be disposed of and the produce received into our cash; and that an account current be sent writing off the nett amount to account current London, that we may be enabled to pay the same to his relations here.

19. Mr. Francis Charlton has signified to us that his very precarious state of health prevents him from proceeding to his station in your Council and was therefore obliged to resign the service.

20. We have drawn upon you the following sets of bills of exchange payable at two shillings and two pence half penny per rupee and thirty days sight viz.

One set for rupees one thousand eight hundred eleven, five annas, and two pice payable to Warren Hastings and Henry Martin Creswicke or either of their orders for pounds sterling two hundred received of Henry Creswicke Esqr. dated 7th January 1773.	} Rs. A. P. 1811-5-2/£200
One set for rupees one thousand three hundred fifty eight, seven annas, and ten pice payable to George Temple for pounds sterling one hundred and fifty recd. of himself dated 28th January 1773.	
	} Rs. A. P. 1358-7-10/£150

We are,

Your loving friends,

G. Colebrooke/L. Sullivan/Heny. Savage/
Hy. Crabb Boulton/Henry Fletcher/ Ben.
Booth/John Roberts/W. Devaynes/Thos.
Rumbold/Thos. Dethick/George Tatem/
George Dempster/Chas. Boddam/Peter
Du Cane Junr./George Cuming/Edwd.
Wheler/Ja. Cockburn.

London,
11th February 1773.
[Per *Bridgewater*]

LETTER DATED 7 APRIL 1773

Ask for detailed account of military stores—shrinking investments in cloth—export warehouses to be managed by writers—cheap and expeditious administration of justice desired—evils of private trade carried on by Coy's servants—production and export of raw silk to be encouraged—importance of Chunar fort—policy towards Nepal commended—regulations for the Commissary General.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We have already written to you this season under the following dates viz. 23rd September, 24th November and 11th December 1772, the 6th January and 11th February 1773; duplicate and triplicate of the last mentioned letters you will receive by the ships *Elgmont* and *Harcourt* now under dispatch for the Coast and Bay.

2. By the abovementioned advices we have repeatedly intimated our intentions to make our full remarks on your proceedings by the latter ships, but as our time and attention have been so much taken up by the minute investigation which Parliament has made and is still making into the state, condition and management of the Company's affairs, both at home and abroad, we must from necessity be so brief at present as to say little more relative to the concerns of your Presidency than is immediately requisite.

3. The High Court of Admiralty having ordered an act of restitution entitling Captain Edward Roche to a part of the ship *Sisun a Margarita*, and her cargo, we have, in pursuance thereof, paid to his attorney here the sum of £ 1072-5- being the amount of his share of the said ship and cargo, you must therefore write off that amount from your books, and the remainder must continue on balance until we give you further orders in respect thereto.

4. Your having omitted to send an account of the remains of military stores subjected us to great difficulty in proportioning our orders to your demands; you therefore must not fail acquainting the officer whose duty was to have drawn it out that he will experience our resentment should he be guilty of the like omission in future.

5. The general account of ordnance and ordnance stores, belonging to the garrison of Fort William heretofore sent, does not altogether answer our purpose, as we want to be informed of the account of the expenditure of each article of military and naval stores, and which may be seen at one view by an account of receipts-issues and remains of naval and military stores drawn out by storekeepers in those separate departments in the manner usually observed in regard to the former, which accounts must be sent in duplicate as must also an account of the remains of stationery.

6. Your indents for medicines are extravagantly large in every instance and appear very remarkably so when compared with the consumption [at] most of the capital hospitals in London and as we cannot imagine your occasions can authorize your indenting in such a manner we have only sent about three fifths of your indents. In order for us to form a proper judgement on your future demands you must not fail sending a particular account of the remains of medicines, drugs, utensils and instruments, and as the latter come to a very considerable sum in the year, you should return the old instruments packed up in a careful manner in order for their being repaired here, especially the cutting ones.

7. The several persons who furnish the medicines have directions to put their names not only to the outside package but upon each bottle, pot or other parcel, so that if the medicines should not prove perfectly good you will be enabled to determine by whom they were provided and the names of the makers being stamped on the instruments you must inform us whether they are received in good order and are the best of their kinds.

8. The several remains and indents beforementioned must be transmitted by the first ship of the season and the remains of stores made up to the period on which the indents are dated, for it is of great consequence that directions should be issued early for the provisions of such articles as we may think necessary to send.

9. We send only one hundred and thirty barrels of gunpowder for Bengal by the way of Bombay, on the *Resolution*, instead of two hundred and forty before advised in our letter of the 11th December last.

10. That we may be fully informed of the state of your hospitals you must give directions to your surgeons to send annually in duplicate a return of the number of patients relieved in the several hospitals either as in or out patients, distinguishing those who have died or been discharged as incurable together with the nature of their disorders.

11. As the instructions which are from time to time transmitted to you in the list of investment must be considered as coming from the vender to the manufactur[ers] we again urge the absolute necessity of your paying strict attention to them, in order to make such improvements in some parts, and alterations in others as may in future render our investment more applicable to the European, American, and African markets, but above all to recover if possible those advantages which from your inattention we have almost lost sight of, and as we are in our list of investment particular and partial to those letters that are most in esteem, and from thence it may frequently happen that we order abundantly where but small quantities can be provided, the greatest care must be taken to encourage an emulation in the weavers of one *aurang* to bring their goods to the same degree of perfect[ion] with those of another, and as the prohibited goods¹ of all denominations are in the greatest demand for the American and African trade, and not only their sale, but also their fitness for those markets depends entirely [on] a strict adherence to our orders, we cannot sufficiently reprove those who have so totally neglected them, nor can we convey to you a stronger instance thereof, than by observing that the goods sent to us are so very indifferently chosen as frequently to oblige the merchants of this place to import from the Dutch in order to make up fit and proper assortments, at the very same time that our warehouses are glutted with those of the same denomination.

12. We must likewise here observe that reasons which you assign for a deficiency in the finer part of our investment appear to us very extraordinary, nor can we conceive why money is so readily advanced for the purchase of coarse goods, and withheld from those *aurungs* that can alone produce the prime articles, from [on] which not only the credit, but

likewise the profit of our whole investment entirely depends.

13. The flowered goods, particularly those from Dacca, continue extremely defective; we therefore strictly require you to appoint from among our covenant servants, inspectors, in order that the cloths may be properly assorted, before they are delivered to the workmen; by this means the different qualities may be appointed to those works that they are best adapted to receive and such cloths as are defective in quality may not be loaded with the additional expence of an operation which they are by no means fit for.

14. However desirous we may be to testify our approbation of the assiduity which Messrs. Wiss and Robinson² have shown in the new method of filature we cannot so far depart from our original agreement with them, as to indulge them, with private trade equally with our covenant servants. Our reasons for this are too evident to need explanation, and as we last year made them a gratuitous allowance of £2000 per annum we consider it as having in a great degree obviated any plea they might form from an insufficiency of their appointments; however if it should be found that their good services entitle them to our further favor you will represent the same to us, that we may consider how far it may be proper for us to extend our bounty to them.

15. The case of Mr. Henry Guinand being similar with that of Messrs. Wiss and Robinson, as far as relates to our agreement with him, he will not expect that we should grant him an indulgence which we have denied to those gentlemen.

16. We learn with concern that assorting and packing of our investments is principally entrusted to black servants, and that our warehouses (formerly a useful nursery to give our younger servants a knowledge of the different fabrics) have seldom more than one English writer belonging to each. The magnitude of our present investments, and the little attention which has been paid to our repeated complaints of the assortments of your cloths have determined us to make the following reform, which must be carried into execution upon the receipt of this letter. In the export warehouse you are to fix a sufficient number of our junior servants, discharging gradually the black sorters and writers.

17. That you may be enabled to do this the sooner, and that our own servants may be fully and early instructed, we appoint Messrs. Lister and Killican as assistants to the Export Warehousekeeper, with the rank of factors, but never to rise higher in our service. The friends of those gentlemen have recommended them in so favourable a light for their knowledge and experience as merchants, that besides the advantages we hope and expect from their attending constantly to the sorting and packing, we trust that our writers (instructed by their judgements) may soon be qualified to do their duty properly, and to encourage the writers to be assiduous in acquiring this knowledge we direct, that as they become qualified for subordinate settlements, and can be spared, these have always a preferable claim to such favour, and as this is to be a standing rule, our

factories will thereby be constantly supplied with able servants.

18. Anxious as we are that the administration of justice should be executed, throughout the provinces, free from that expence, which too frequently attends suits at law, we cannot but be concerned to find that the mode of arbitration which we recommended to you, for this purpose, is liable to the objections you have stated to us, in your letter of 9th March 1772. We however rely only on your using your best endeavours to promote our views therein by adopting some method which may encourage the natives to take on themselves the office of arbitrators and to execute it free from that dilatoriness and delay to which it may have been subject. This at last we must leave to your conduct until we shall have completed the regulations we are at this time contemplating for speedy and effectual administration of justice in India.

Lre. 9th March
1772 para 48 and
9.

19. We cannot but be sensibly affected at finding that neither the instructions we have given you, nor the means you have taken for the provision of our investments have hitherto produced any and effectual regulations. The plan we transmitted in April 1771, is declared by you to be impracticable, and yet in the forming of it we had been aided by those who had filled the highest stations and recently returned from Bengal. Our object in this plan was to connect the Company and all others, natives as well as Europeans, in one common interest, and by relinquishing every claim to preference from our power and influence, to establish liberty and freedom of commerce throughout the provinces, and although this design has proved unsuccessful, we have the satisfaction to reflect that it must ever remain as a testimony of our intentional justice and humanity.

20. But we must here observe, that your reply per *Rockford* to our orders on this head is not altogether satisfactory to us; we consider, important a subject as requiring a deeper discussion than what you appear to have given it, for we cannot but conceive, that the principal causes of the failure of investments might have been fully traced, and the means applied for removing every obstruction. And therefore, in the present distressful situation of the Company with the public eye upon it is become indispensibly necessary that we are determined to investigate this and every other branch of our affairs with the most minute exactness which the materials before us will admit.

21. We wish we could refute the observations that almost every attempt made by us and our administrations, at your Presidency, for reforming of abuses has rather increased them and added to the miseries of the country, we are so anxious to protect and cherish. The truth of this observation appears fully in the late appointment of supervisors and chiefs instituted as they were, to give relief to the industrious tenants to improve and enlarge our investments, to destroy monopolies, and retrench expences, the end has by no means been answerable to the institution. Are not the tenants more than ever oppressed and wretched? Are our investments improved? Has not the raw silk and cocoons been

raised upon us 50 per cent in price? We can hardly say what has not been made a monopoly; and as to the expences of your Presidency they are at length swelled to a degree we are no longer able to support. These facts (for such they are) should have been stated to us as capital reasons why neither our orders of 1771, nor, indeed, any regulations whatever could be carried into execution. But, perhaps, as this would have proved too much, it was not suggested to us, for nothing could more plainly indicate a state of anarchy, and that there was no government existing in our servants in Bengal.

22. When we directed a general freedom of trade, it was not possible for us to suppose that the French and others would be suffered to exercise every act of oppression over the weavers, and by force compel the delivery of their manufactures. Yet such facts appear on your records and should have been exposed as other strong proofs that the Company's investment must necessarily be loaded with the refuge and ready money goods. Sorry we are to say that silence also upon this subject is by us too well understood and however it may reflect on the conduct of many of our servants we cannot but enquire how the French, without money or influence, fill their ships with the prime and valuable manufactories of Bengal, and from whom they draw such large and, to us, ruinous resources.

23. And therefore, when oppression pervades the whole country, when youths have been suffered with impunity to exercise sovereign jurisdiction over the natives and to acquire rapid fortunes monopolizing of commerce, it cannot be a wonder to us or yourselves, that *dadney* merchants do not come forward to contract with the Company, that the manufactures find their way through foreign channels, or that our investments are at once enormously dear and of a debased quality.

24. It is evident then that the evils, which have been so destructive to us, lie too deep for any partial plans to reach or correct, it is therefore our resolution to aim at the root of these evils; and we are happy in having reason to believe that in every just and necessary regulation we shall meet with the approbation and support of the Legislature, who consider the public as materially interested in the Company's prosperity.

25. In order to effectuate this great end the first step must be to restore perfect obedience and due subordination to your administration. Our Governor and Council must reassume and exercise their delegated powers upon every just occasion, punish delinquents, cherish the meritorious, discountenance that luxury and dissipation, which to the reproach of government prevailed in Bengal. Our President, Mr. Hastings, we trust, will set the example of temperance, economy, and application and upon this we are sensible much will depend. And here we take occasion to indulge the pleasure we have in acknowledging Mr. Hastings's services upon the Coast of Coromandel, in constructing with equal labour and ability the plan which has so much improved our investments there, and as we are persuaded he will persevere in the same laudable pursuit, through every branch of our affairs in Bengal, he in return may depend

on the steady support and favor of his employers.

26. Your settlement being thus put into a train of reform (without which, indeed, all regulations will prove ineffectual) you are next to revert to the old system when the business of our Presidency was principally performed by our own servants, who then had knowledge of our investments and every other department of our concerns. You will therefore fill the several offices with the factors and writers upon your establishment for with our present appointments we are assured there will be sufficient for this purpose ; and thus you will banish idleness and its attendance [attendant] extravagance and dissipation. And here we enjoin you to transmit to us a faithful and minute state of the pay and every known emolument of all below Council, for as it is notorious that even youths in our service expend in equipage, servants, dress and living infinitely more than our stated allowances can afford, we cannot but be anxious to discover the means by which they are enabled to proceed in this manner. And, indeed, so obnoxious is this conduct to us, and so injurious in its consequences that we expect and require you to shew your displeasure to all such as shall transgress in this respect, contrasting it at the same time with instances of kindness towards the sober, frugal and industrious.

27. The monopoly of commerce by the chiefs etc. at your subordinates has been a severe reflection upon the administrations in Bengal for we conceive it impossible that such practices could have been long concealed and it was in the power of the Board to apply a remedy by recalling and suspending the delinquents. But we trust you will not in future be under the necessity of exercising your authority for the abolition of this evil, and this once effected will be a great and essential step towards the improvement and extension of our investments, especially if you follow it with compleat protection to the weavers and merchants; and here we direct that you suffer no persons of any nation whatsoever to trespass upon the rights and dominions of the country of which we declare ourselves the guardians and conservators. And since the power of government must continue with the Nabob, you will request him to confine foreigners within the limit of their *phirmaund*. And therefore as the French cannot have a right, you will, to the best of your power, prevent them from imprisoning and maltreating the weavers or any others under the protection of the Circar. If the French, at any time, think themselves aggrieved they may as heretofore apply to the Nabob for redress, and should they disobey and spurn the orders of Government (as we find by your records that they have ventured to do) it rests with the Nabob to act by them agreeably to the practice of his predecessors.

28. Having, as we conceive, fully investigated the causes of the failure of our investments in goodness, price and quantity, and much to our concern proved also that almost every stream has been polluted, we now arm you with our full powers to make a compleat reformation. The task, we are sensible, will be arduous but we rely on your zeal for the service of the Company, and as we have the satisfaction to assure ourselves

that you will not misuse the powers we have delegated to you we hesitate not to promise you our entire support and protection.

29. And having already revoked regulations and orders of [. . .] March 1770, we now so far suspend those of the 10th April 1771 as to leave the whole open to every alteration you may judge necessary and fit to make.

30. As raw silk is an article of our commerce which we are solicitous to increase and as we are of opinion that this is not to be effected without giving the greatest encouragement to the cultivator of the mulberry tree and to those employed as winders, we therefore recommend it to you, in the strongest manner, to fall on some method to accomplish our desire by granting particular privileges to those people to induce them to turn their industry to that branch of commerce. The giving them long leases of their farms and exempting them from arbitrary fines and taxes, would, we conceive, be most conducive thereto, and we recommend the country to the eastward of the Poddah as best adopted to our purpose. For in case Bengal should ever be invaded by the Mharratas or any other country power, the enemy could not cross that great river to destroy the mulberry plantations or disperse the winders of raw silk.

31. We shall here only add, that as we understand our President is thoroughly acquainted with this valuable branch of our trade³ we have not the least doubt but that he, as well as every member of your Board, will exert himself to the utmost for effecting this important concern.

32. The quantity of saltpetre we would have sent from the three Presidencies is two thousand five hundred tons; you must therefore concert with the other two as to the proportion they will want to compleat their respective cargoes.

33. Though your advices of last year have not been answerable to the hope we had of your having been able to acquire actual possession of the fortress of Chunar Gur, yet it affords us a sensible pleasure to find that the Vizier has proposed it shall be garrisoned by our troops, while affairs to the westward may require our interposition or himself stand in need of our assistance; and as you have so far advanced towards the completion of our wishes in this respect we trust that you will not lose sight of so important an object but take every favorable opportunity to press the Vizier to cede it to us in perpetuity or at least for so long as it may be necessary for us to retain it. The importance of this post being the ground of our desire to have it in our possession, we cannot be supposed to aim hereby at extending our acquisitions since this can only be considered as giving security to what we already possess in the kingdom of Bengal.

34. Desirous as we are at all times to preserve as much as possible the tranquility of the provinces we cannot but commend your caution in not having undertaken an expedition against the Goorka Rajah⁴ in order to re-annex to the Bahar Province some *purgunnahs* which, though in his possession, yet properly belonged thereto. We the more readily approve

Select Letter
15th November
1771.

General Letter
9 March 1772,
paragraphs
37 and 41.

your conduct herein as we find that you have avoided relinquishing the Company's claim to these *purgannahs* and have directed our servants at Patna to require regular payment of the annual tribute as an acknowledgment of our right. And in this we trust that we shall not be disappointed since you must be fully sensible that every improper relaxation of our power will ultimately affect our interest also.

35. We are concerned to find that Colonel Campbell should have considered himself hurt in any degree by the regulations we made in the administration of your Presidency and by which he was precluded from a voice in the Committee of Works. But when Colonel Campbell shall reflect that the arrangement we had made was for members of Council only, we persuade ourselves that he will not consider that restriction as proceeding from any disregard to him or a diminution of that confidence which we had reposed in him, from his appointment to the office of Chief Engineer ; indeed, from the just sense we have of Colonel Campbell's merit we find the greater reluctance in disappointing the expectations he may have formed of continuing to have a seat and voice in your Military Committee, and we trust, that from his own conviction of our good disposition towards him, he will not persist in desiring us to admit a particular exception to take place in our general arrangement.

36. The resolution you took to fill the seats, which were vacant at your Board by the resignation of Mr. Kelsall and the death of Mr. Hare. was perfectly conformable to our order of [.] respecting the number of your Council. And as we have since judged it expedient to readmit the members of Council to enjoy chiefships we have determined that fourteen (including those who may be sent to subordinates) shall compose your Board, until you shall receive our orders to the contrary.

37. We find by your Consultation of the 14th January 1771 that Mr. Darell, your Sub-Accountant, had succeeded to the station of Accountant which we hereby confirm and we appoint Mr. William Wood to be Sub-Accountant with the emoluments his predecessor enjoyed and with the rank of youngest junior merchant, but not to rise higher in the list of covenant servants ; but it is our pleasure that in case of a vacancy he succeed to the office of Accountant and rank as first Senior Merchant.

38. Mr. James Grant, a writer upon your establishment, returns to his station on the *Europa* by way of Bombay without prejudice to his rank.

39. Mr. Richard Gosling, who came to England for his health, has applied to return without prejudice to his rank but as it appeared by your General Letter of the 12th February 1771 that he resigned the service we have only permitted him to rank in your list of covenant servants as the youngest writer of the year 1770 next below Mr. Charles Williams.

40. We have appointed Messrs. Robert Gregory Junior and John Wilkinson to be writers at your Presidency, to take their standing next below Mr. Robert Gosling, the youngest writer of last season, and permitted them to remain in England until next year.

41. We have also appointed the following writers for your Presidency who are to take their ranks as here mentioned, viz. Daniel Octavius Barwell, Thomas Philip Broughton, Henry Martin Creswicke, Charles Grant, James Withers, John Hill, James Ross, William Douglas, Henry Chichley Plowden, Thomas Douglas, James Daley, Thomas Law, James King, William Hunter, Philip Cole, Eldred Addison, Henry Latham, William Nathan Wright Hewett, Lawrence Mercer, Robert Beeby, Thomas Hoissard, Ambrose Lynch Gilbert, Arthur Hesilrige, Robert Pott, Ramsay Hannay, George Rochfort, George Templer, Francis Muir, Thomas Braithwaite, Roger Gale, Henry Maclean, David Vander Heyden Atkinson, Thomas Evans, Benjamin Grindall, Edward Otto Ives, Mathew Leslie.

42. As it appears by your General Letter of the 30th August 1771 you had sent Mr. Richard Phipps, one of the assistants at Cossimbuzar, as being well qualified to establish the raw silk filatures at Rungpore after the manner of Messrs. Wiss and Robinson, we would have you continue him there and give him all suitable encouragement for him to exert his best endeavours to bring this valuable branch of our investment to perfection, in which we wish to see some of our junior servants initiated to render them perfectly capable of improving the quality and increasing the quantity of an article of such national consequence.

43. Mr. James Ross being at present a writer at Fort St. George we have advised that Presidency of his appointment that he may proceed to Bengal, but on his removal he is not to avail himself of his services at Madras as it is on the express condition that he agrees to rank agreeable to our present appointment in the same manner as if he had not before been employed in the Company's service. His covenants are sent by the *Harco rt.* which must be executed and returned by the first ship.

44. In consideration of the good character you give of Mr. Robert Palk^a we revoke our orders of the 10th April 1771, for his being recalled from Patna and permit you to employ him in such station as you shall think proper.

45. As the sending our junior servants in the provinces as Supra- visors has not been attended with the wished for success but has enabled to monopolize the whole trade of the country, we therefore direct that they be withdrawn as soon as possible, and we leave it to you to substitute some other plan for making yourselves acquainted with the exact value of every district and for giving relief to the inhabitants, till we shall be able to send you compleat regulations for conducting this important branch of our affairs which we have now under consideration.

46. In consideration of the many services and sufferings of Captain William Justice we have appointed him a factor on the Bengal Establishment and to rank next under Mr. James Lister, but he is not to rise to a superior station therein. By the *Egmont* we transmit his covenants which are to be executed, witnessed and returned by the first conveyance.

47. Having supplied you with two chaplains your reasons for detaining the Rev. Mr. Yate^s are at an end ; we therefore repeat our former orders for sending him to Europe, which must be done by one of the first ships after the receipt hereof, as a further disobedience to our orders will subject you to our highest displeasure.

48. Captain Robert Coxe who came to England for the recovery of his health returns to his rank at your Presidency on the *Vansittart* by the way of Bombay; we have lent him £ 200 which is to be repaid agreeable to the tenor of his bond enclosed in the ship *Ejmont's* packet.

49. We have permitted Major John White to return to our military service at your Presidency and to take his rank next under that officer who shall be the youngest major on his arrival there but with this express condition that he receive only the pay and emoluments of captain until the field officers are reduced to the establishment when he is to be entitled to the pay and emoluments of a major.

50. James Mac Quarie a military recruit on board the *Harcourt* for Bengal being, as we are well assured, a lieutenant in His Majesty's troops upon half pay and of a reputable family we direct you to appoint him a cadet in our infantry at your Presidency upon his arrival to rank as the last of those few appointed by us in the course of this season.

51. During the course of the present Parliamentary enquiry we have been at a great loss for the want of several material books and accounts which should have been sent to Europe, as well those of the Presidency as of the subordinates, particularly regarding the revenues; we therefore hereby direct that previous to the dispatch of every ship you call upon the several offices at the Presidency and at the subordinates to send in the books and papers which are requisite for our thorough knowledge of every branch of your civil and commercial affairs. The Town Major must also be required to deliver in the list of the army, a general return and an account of promotions and casualties and these must be sent by the first and last ships of every season.

52. As there is the greatest reason to believe that Captain Swiney Toone's bond for ten thousand rupees, mentioned in your General Letter of the 30th August 1771, was lost by some accident between Fort William and Mongheer and as we understand that interest notes are only payable to the obligee and are not negotiable, we direct that you grant a new bond upon taking sufficient security to indemnify the Company against the former bond and all actions, costs and damages relating thereto and to deliver the same up in case it should be found.

53. Mr. Salvador having represented to us that his attornies Messrs. Vansittart, Darell and Hollond had at different times paid into your treasury the sum of rupees 26,682 in order to receive bills payable by us here but as you had declined drawing bills on us, and we have given directions that none should be drawn upon us till further orders, we, therefore, agreeable to his request, direct that you repay the amount to his attornies with such interest as shall be due thereon.

54. Though the reply you received from Rear Admiral Sir Robert Harland⁷ to the question you stated to him (respecting the right you might have to send on board and examine any foreign ships, and particularly French ships, which should pass by your forts and batteries) might have been judged sufficient for your guidance, yet from the point of view in which an unrestricted passage of the *Ganges* must necessarily appear to you, we cannot but approve your caution in referring this matter to our decision. However as the Admiral has declared his opinion that the Company has no right to stop, or require the ships of France or any other nation to give an account of themselves in passing your forts and batteries, we may, indeed, lament the want of power to counteract and defeat by such means any hostile designs which may secretly be carrying on against us, but we cannot take upon ourselves to give sanction to a measure which is considered by His Majesty's plenipotentiary as a breach of treaty, and therefore we hereby strictly enjoin you to conform to what has been suggested by Admiral Harland. But at the same time you must not relax in the least, from your attention to the security of our possession or pass over any overt act of the French or others which may indicate such hostile intentions as might warrant other measures.

55. Mr. Johannes Galdar junior, a native of Persia whom we have permitted to take passage on one of our ships to Madras, having represented that he has several outstanding concerns in India, and requested our recommendation for the furtherance of his views we direct, in case you should receive any application from him for that purpose, that you grant him every reasonable assistance towards the adjustment of such affairs as he may have depending within the limits of your Presidency.

56. The absolute necessity of retrenching the excessive military charges of your Presidency has induced us to appoint Lauchlin Maclean Esqr. Commissary General of army accounts in Bengal, whose sole attention being fixed to one object we flatter ourselves that he will be able to effectuate such a reduction of extra and contingent expenses, as may fully answer our expectations in his appointment.

57. The accompanying copy of a report of committee, which was appointed to form regulations and instructions relative to the Commissary General, will convey to you our ideas of the necessity of reviving that office in Bengal, also mark many of those improprieties and abuses which appear to us to merit an immediate and an effectual reform, consonant to which report you are hereby directed to prepare instructions for the said Commissary General and to take care that they be effectually carried into execution.

58. Mr. Maclean for his services as Commissary General is to be allowed the salary and emoluments annexed to the station of youngest Councillor, and in order to give him rank in the field we have granted him a brevet commission with the rank of colonel, but he is not to perform any military duty or receive any pay or *batta* or other emolument whatever in consequence of such his military rank.

59. Being fully satisfied of the abilities of Thomas Rumbold Esqr. to render the Company very important service we have renewed our former appointment for his return to his station in the Company's service in Bengal as second in Council next under our President Warren Hastings Esqr., and to succeed to the Government in case of vacancy by death or otherways of Mr. Hastings.

60. As we esteem the appointment of a Quarter Master General of great importance and as Lieutenant Colonel Leslie has served in that department during the last war in different parts we have appointed him to execute that post at your Presidency, but under this express condition that he does not receive any pay or emolument for executing that trust except what is agreeable to the custom of the army in England and that he is entitled to as Lieutenant Colonel of infantry. Copy of his warrant is enclosed.

61. In consideration of the good character you have given of Mr. Francis Robertson, late an ensign at your Presidency and who was dismissed for the part he had in the mutiny in 1766 we have been induced to readmit him into the service with the rank of youngest lieutenant upon the receipt hereof, and we direct that you give him a commission conformable thereto.

62. As we observe the Cossimbuzar investment is provided by an authority totally independant of Government, and that the Company's servants assume to themselves a right highly detrimental to us, and by that means have, since the year 1769, raised the price of the cocoons 50 per cent. we are no longer at a loss to account for the opposition that has been made to the joint endeavors of our servants Messrs. Wiss and Robinson; but we now hope that such measures have been adopted as will put that part of our investment on a better ground and render their assiduity more advantageous to their employers.

63. We herewith transmit to you a list of the different characters of raw silk, with the profit and loss thereon, for the years 1771 and 1772; also the remarks of the dealers on some particular sorts.

64. You must be carefull to alter the different modes of winding agreeably to what has already been recommended to you. And now leaving you unrestricted as to the number of bales of either sort of silk we have only to enjoin you to send us as much of those articles which yield the greatest profit as you possibly can; and so on with the next advantageous characters. And as the state of our affairs requires the utmost extention of your investments you are not to forbear sending even those which are attended with a loss, in case such should be necessary to supply in investment to as great an amount as you can provide from your own resources and we have not the least doubt of your being thereby enabled to increase your consignments of this valuable branch of national commerce even to the utmost of our wishes. But it is our positive order that no part of such investment be provided by borrowed money which is to be repaid by draughts upon our treasury in London, since the license which has already been taken in this respect has involved us in difficulties which we

yet know not how we shall surmount.

65. Being desirous to comply with the request which the creditors of Mr. Bolts have made us respecting his outstanding concerns, we recommend to you to afford them all proper assistance for the recovery of his lawful outstanding debt and effects.

66. The abuses which have been committed in the salt trade at your Presidency being at this time under Parliamentary consideration we judge it adviseable to defer remarking thereupon until we shall be enabled to speak more fully on the subject and to point out such regulations as shall appear to us necessary for conducting this branch in future. This we hope to do in a short time by the packet intended to be sent to India.

We are,

Your loving friends,

L. Sullivan/Ja. Cockburn/Jn. Michie/
Henry Fletcher/Pet. Lascelles/Thos.
Dethick/Chas. Boddam/Thos. Rum-
bold/J. Hurlock/George Tatem/Edwd.
Wheler/J. Manship/Joshua Smith/Hy.
Crabb Boulton.

London,
7th April 1773.

Enclosure

At a committee appointed to form regulations and instructions relative to the Commissary General of the army accounts in Bengal.

Present:

Deputy Chairman
Sir James Cockburn Baronet
Mr. Dempster
Mr. Michie
Mr. Roberts
Mr. Rumbold

Pursuant to an order of the Court of the 9th instant, the Committee having taken into consideration the state of military expences in Bengal, so far as respects the objects particularly recommended to their consideration, and attempted to distinguish those particular charges, in which, they are of opinion, great reductions may be made without injuring the service.

[1.] They beg leave to observe that as in the beginning of the year 1770, the Governor and Council of Bengal established a committee to form a code of military regulations and as such code has been completed and approved by the said Governor and Council, the Committee have judged it proper to confine their investigations to transactions of that and subsequent periods.

[2.] This premised the Committee beg leave to lay before the Court the result of their researches and to point out, so far as they are able, such of the superfluous contingent expences of the army at Bengal as in their

Military Code
fol. 1.

opinion call for the most speedy regulation; in doing which, they shall also take notice of such proceedings of the Governor and Council, as have in this enquiry been deemed liable to exception or deserving of reprehension.

[3.] Upon comparing the annual military charges at Bengal with those of the Coast of Choromandel, the Committee find them as follows, viz.

In 1770-71 at Bengal	.. .. .	£1,093,006
In 1770-71 at Fort St. George		437,432
		<hr/>
	Difference	£655,574

The returns of men are

	Europeans	Sepoys
At Bengal	3,890	26,132
At Madras	4,410	18,339
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Difference 0,520	7,793

The Committee estimate the difference between troops at the two Presidencies as follows, viz.

	For deficiency of sepoy against	
	Fort St. George	£100,000
	For excess of Europeans in favor	
	of Fort St. George	10,000
		<hr/>
	Difference	£90,000

[4.] Upon the foregoing statement the expence of an army equal to that at Bengal would at Fort St. George amount to nearly £527,432.

[5.] But the amount at Bengal having been £10,93,006 the difference of expences at the two Presidencies, supposing the men equal, would be no less than £565,574 or more than double the sum at Bengal as at Madras.

[6.] The Committee do not give this as an exact statement but they are persuaded it will be found within the truth, and as it conveys an idea of too great a difference between the military charges of the two Presidencies to be attributed merely to errors in calculation the Committee have been obliged to have recourse to other materials, in order to account in some measure, for the vast excess of military charges incurred at Bengal over and above those at Fort St. George.

[7.] It is necessary to observe that each Presidency has five companies of artillery. The Committee find no considerable difference in the strength of each corps, but in examining the staff of artillery at each Presidency they appear exceedingly different, viz.

Staff of artillery at Fort St. George:	Do Bengal:
To the whole corps, or to five companies of artillery at Fort St. George	The staff of one company only in Bengal is as follows viz.

the following staff is allowed, viz.

1 adjutant 5 shillings a day

1 quarter master 4 do.

1 serjeant major 4 pagodas per month

1 quarter master serjeant do.

1 drum major 2 pagodas per month

5 total for five companies.

1 adjutant 62 rupees per month,
and *batta* 124.

1 deputy commissary do. do.

1 surgeon assistant do. do.

2 conductors 50 each

1 serjeant major 20

1 quarter master serjeant 20

1 pay serjeant 7 rupees per month

1 drill serjeant 14 do.

1 park serjeant 14 do.

1 drill corporal 7 do.

3 camp colour men, 6 each

1 adjutant to attend the com-
manding officer 62-124.

*15 for one company besides

1 overseer of feeding bullocks

1 do. of *belders* { in time of
service only.

(*Bengal Military Code fol. 2.)

The labourers at Fort St. George
viz: *syraugs*, *tindalls*, and *lascars*, for
the 5 companis of artillery are only 745.

The labourers at Bengal viz.
syraugs, *tindall*, and *lascars*
for the 5 companies of artillery
are 3410.

Code folio 6. Contingents for
the staff of the army (vide C.I.
compared) are many of them
as follows, viz.

Judge Advocate's allowances for a writer 60 rupees per month.

Quarter Master's allowances for

1 writer 60 do.

1 *sircar* 40 do.

1 *monshee* 50

2 horses 60

stationery 60

Field Engineer's allowances for

2 horses 60

1 writer 40

Secretary's allowances for

1 writer 50

2 horses 60

Persian Interpreter's allowances for

monshees and *hircarrahs* 540

hircarrahs 530

2 aid-du-camps' allowances for

2 horses

stationery 120

Contingent allowances to the staff of a brigade.

	<i>sircar</i>	100	P.M.
	writer	100	
To one Colonel for	<i>monshee</i>	100	
	interpreter	100	
	<i>hircarrahs</i>	185	
	2 horses	60	
To Brigade Major for	writers	40	
	candles	30	
	stationery	40	
To aid-du-camps for	3 horses	90	
	candles	30	
	<i>sircars and shroffs</i>	150	
To Paymaster for	writers	100	
	stationery	60	
	<i>hircarrahs</i>	14	
To Deputy Paymaster	<i>lascars</i>	20	
	coolers	20	
To commissary	writers and	108	
	stationery		
Contingents to the staff of one company of artillery			
	<i>sircar</i>	30	
To adjutant for	writer	40	
	stationery	25	
To a brigade company			
	writer	40	
	<i>sircar</i>	20	
To captain for	stationery	25	
	candles	..	
To each company			
	<i>sircar</i>	20	
To adjutant and quarter	writer	40	
master	stationery	25	
	writer	40	
To deputy commissary	<i>sircar</i>	20	
	stationery	25	
For two conductors for	stationery	40	

[8.] The difference both of names and numbers of artificers attending the army at Bengal and at Fort Saint George admit of no regular comparison. They are of fortynine different denominations at Bengal and only of thirteen at Fort Saint George. On comparing the staff of a regiment in Bengal with that of a regiment on the Coast the difference appears as follows, viz.

Fort St. George
Staff of a regiment, Military
Code, page 41 ;

Bengal
Staff of a regiment :

1 adjutant	1 chaplain per month rupees	186
1 quarter master	2 adjutants "	124
1 serjeant major	2 quarter masters	124
1 quarter master serjeant	2 serjeant majors	20
1 drum major	2 quarter master serjeants	14
N.B. Camp colourmen are	2 drill serjeants	14
allowed when in the	2 drill corporals	7
field only at Fort St. George.	2 drum majors	5
	2 fife majors	5
	18 camp colourmen	6

 35

[9]. But it must here be noted that a regiment in Bengal is divided into two battalions and contains 18 companies whereas by the Fore St. George Code the regiment contained only half the number of companies, but then the private men at Fort St. George were 70 to a company and at Bengal about 50 to a company. By the Military Code of 1770 there is also proposed an increase of European officers in the there regiments to the number of 576, which regulation was ordered to take place so far as the state of the army would admit. The staff of seapoys at Bengal is for every 6 battalions rupees [... ..] per month 1767 ; the staff of one brigade per month rupees 1302.

[10.] The staff of the army or Commander-in Chief per month rupees 1426, and of a Brigade Major for contingents per month rupees 200.

[11.] Here the Committee conceive that a considerable sum is misapplied to gratify nominated officers and defray excessive charges distinct from the strength of every corps, and as the Committee apprehend this excess has been carried to the most unwarrantable extent ever known in the service of the Company.

[12.] The Committee do not deem it necessary to particularize the excess to be retrenched. The contrast between the charges at Fort St. George and Bengal will sufficiently point out the line to be observed in reformation, and the practicable savings may be too considerable for this Committee to decide upon. It is however incumbent upon them to add that the above are the charges established by the Military Code lately formed and approved by the Governor and Council of Bengal, which Code also is said to reduce former extra allowances.

[13.] Another article of great unnecessary charge in Bengal is occasioned by a fleet of *budgerows* and boats constantly kept up for the use of the army.

[14.] The expence of *budgerows* and boats for the transportation of one brigade only is hettled at the extraordinary sum of rupees per month 25,420.

[15.] A standing fleet of these vessels is kept up in time of peace at the annual expence of upwards of pounds sterling 30,000 which this Com-

mittee are of opinion ought to be immediately reduced, and they cannot but observe that it appears very blameable in the Governor and Council to permit such an enormous charge to become a standing expence upon the Bengal military establishment, more especially as the commissary of boats represents that the owners of those vessels frequently make trading voyages with them during the time they are receiving pay for them from the Company in Calcutta.

[16.] The Committee are informed that temporary quarters for officers are another cause of improper charge in Bengal to great amount.

[17.] That formerly the military officers neither experienced nor expected such indulgencies, but it is now declared that temporary quarters are every year built, rebuilt, repaired and refitted at great expence, and that the stores for such services being served in kind the contingent bills occasioned thereby vie with each other in extravagance.

[18.] The Committee therefore cannot hesitate in recommending reform in this article of expences, if not a total abolition, in as much as the cantonments are finished.

[19.] A troop of black cavalry maintained in Bengal exceeds in expence a battalion seapoys. One troop is declared to be too weak to be of any real service. The Committee do not take upon them to judge of the propriety of reforming them entirely, but cannot help recommending that they be reduced to a very small number at events. The expence of feeding the horses, which is stated at 30 rupees per month, they conceive, will be considerably reduced.

[20.] The number and feeding of army bullocks is an article that requires the strictest investigation. This contract for feeding is usually annexed to that for victualling the Europeans; a stipulation is generally made by the contractor for a certain number of bullocks to be always kept in the service, and if he be gratified in this respect he con-

Vide Mr. Hunter's contract and Mr. Rumbold's dissent letter to Bengal 23rd March 1770
sents to almost any terms for the other parts of his contract. When Mr. Hunter had the contract in Bengal he stipulated for three hundred bullocks to a brigade but the Committee observe with concern that the bullocks now reported necessary and actually ordered to be attached to one brigade, amount to no less number than 649.

The Company's pay for bullocks on the Coast is for ten bullocks

Military Code	and proper drivers per month	...	..	32-28
9. N.B. Muster of bullocks with the 3 brigades for the month of September 1771 was no less than 2075.	The contractors on the Coast paid the owners of cattle. during the last war, for 10 bullocks per month only	...	...	23-24
Vide General Consultation 2nd December 1771.	The profits upon 10 bullocks per month was	...	...	9-4

or about £3-12s. sterling.

[21.] According to this calculation 649 bullocks, attached in Bengal to one brigade only, will yield a clear profit to the contractor of pounds sterling 2796 per annum; the Committee cannot but be of opinion that, if

proper care be taken to render the terms of contracts open to every competitor, a large reduction of the contractor's profits upon army cattle and feeding may be made and saved to the Company.

[22.] And it is with concern the Committee observe that although very particular dissents have at times been entered by Members of the Council against improper contracts such dissents have only served to point out more strongly the partiality of the majority of the Council in accepting terms disadvantageous to the Company when better were to be obtained, and in making voluntary offers of contracts to individuals without advertising for proposals at all. As a proof of the above, and more fully to explain the subject, the Committee recommend to the perusal of the Court a minute entered by Mr. Rumbold on the subject of military contract 16 March 1769, the minute of Mr. Reed in 1771 and the 133rd paragraph of the Court's letter 23 march 1770, on contracts in general and particularly respecting the impropriety of a voluntary tender of contracts for gun carriages to a man who, though not an artist, had obtained eight different contracts, every one of which was of sufficient importance to engross his whole time and attention if executed properly, viz.

One contract for all the carpenters' work for the New Fort.

One do smiths' work for do.

One do. braziers' work for do.

One do. for all the bricklayers' work at the cantonments of Berham-pore.

One do. carpenters' work for do.

One do smiths' work for do.

One do. braziers' work for do.

One do. for all the carts wanted or employed in conducting the said fortifications.

[23.] But the Committee are obliged to declare that contracts, under stipulated forfeitures, are in general too much disregarded at Bengal. Failure of contract is seldom attended with payment of penalty; excuses are admitted in lieu of performance and penalties are almost

universally remitted. The Court of Directors have animadverted severely upon their Governor and Council in their late advices for such conduct. The Governor and Council have acknowledged the charge and promised amendment, but that amendment hath not taken place is evident from the contracts for gun carriages and for bricks for the New Fort. In the former instance it is not pretended that the lowest terms possible are obtained, and in the latter many evident advantages proposed by Major Watson were rejected although in the opinion of one of the Council savings might hereby have been made of more than one

Letter to Bengal
23rd March 1770.

Letter from Bengal dated 12 February 1771, paragraph 42.

Vide Mr. Reed's minute General Consultation 28 October 1771.

Vide Mr. Reed's minute and dissent Military Consultation 10th

for the part of the whole expence of bricks wanted for the New Fort in Bengal, in case the Company should purchase the docks, and the bricks would have been burnt

October p. 390
and General Con-
sultation 28 Oct.
1771.

Major Watson's
letters. Military
Consultation folio
437.

in kilns which would have rendered them exceedingly preferable to those furnished by the other contractor which are not so burnt. The Committee are also of opinion that all the late advertisements for contracts in Bengal are very exceptionable.

[24.] The Governor and Council advertised that all stores for *Military and Naval Storekeepers' departments, for the Storekeepers of the Works and for the Buxey's office shall be paid forthwith interest notes*; it necessarily follows that every man is precluded from offering proposals whose circumstances do not render it convenient to accept such mode of payment, hence competitors are few and contracts too much confined to one channel to admit of the most beneficial being obtained for the Company. The Committee do therefore recommend that no contract whatever be at any time made payable in interest notes except in cases of absolute necessity nor renewed on any pretence until it shall have been for a reasonable time publicly advertized, that the lowest offers with sufficient security be invariably accepted and that on contract penalty whatever be remitted unless by the express order of the Court of Directors.

Military Consul-
tation 19 Decem-
ber 1771 folios
572, 577, 588.

[25.] Were these or similar regulations faithfully executed the Committee are of opinion that great abuses in contracts in Bengal will be prevented.

[26.] The Committee cannot quit the subject of army contingents without pointing out those incurred immediately by a Commander-in-Chief at Bengal, and the vast disproportion this particular instance between allowances at that Presidency and at Fort St. George.

[27.] When General Lawrence commanded the Company's troops at Fort St. George his extra expences in the field were limited to ten pagodas a day or £ sterling 1460 per annum, which were never to be exceeded unless on days of marching when 25 or 30 coolies were also allowed him to carry his baggage.

[28.] Upon comparing this regulation with the expences of the Commander-in-Chief at Bengal the Committee find that he has been paid for his table expences at the rate of £7791 per annum; the Committee are therefore of opinion that a considerable reduction ought to be made in this article of expence.

General Consul-
tation 14 Novem-
ber 1769.

[29.] From this view of the extraordinary expences which have been incurred in the military service at Bengal the Committee cannot but be of opinion that a general and speedy reform is absolutely necessary, and they deem it their duty in this place to declare that the abolition of the office of Commissary General in 1766 appears to them to have been a very improper measure, such officer being an immediate check upon military paymasters and contractors.

General Consul-
tation 6 January
1766.

[30.] The Committee are convinced that reformation must be an

arduous undertaking and that it will require the greatest efforts of capacity and integrity but they are equally certain that by a diligent and faithful perseverance in duty an effectual controul of the army accounts in Bengal will produce very great savings in the military expences at that settlement.

[31.] It is the further opinion of this Committee that no bill of military charges whatever be at any time paid by any Paymaster or other person until certified by the Commissary General in writing under his hand.

[32.] That in all cases wherein the Governor and Council shall overrule the opinion of the Commissary General he be directed to deliver a dissent in writing containing his reasons at large for his dissenting from their proceedings, and that such dissent be entered upon their Consultations.

[33.] It is the further opinion of this Committee that it be strongly recommended to employ elephants with the Company's troops in place of bullocks as they are not only reported the best and cheapest carriage for an army but because the line of march would be shortened and thereby the cavalry of an enemy be prevented from obtaining those advantages over our infantry which cannot but continue so long as carriage bullocks are employed to transport the heavy baggage of the army.

Thursday 10th

December 1772.

4

LETTER DATED 16 APRIL 1773

Removal of Riza Khan from the post of Naib Diwan.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. On the 10th instant we received by the ship *Nottingham* your General Letters in the Public and Secret Departments of the September, also the several enclosures agreeable to the list of the packet.

2. The lateness of the season not permitting us to detain the *Egmont* and *Harcourt* longer than has already been done for the purpose of this dispatch, we are prevented from entering fully into the important subjects noticed to us in your advices per *Nottingham*. But we cannot omit the present opportunity to express the satisfaction which we receive from that readiness and zeal for our service with which you have united with our President, Mr. Hastings, in carrying into execution those essential objects which, from the nature of them, we judged it necessary, confidentially to commit to his immediate care and conduct.

3. And here we must observe the measures taken in consequence of the removal of Mahomet Reza Cawn from the office of *Naib Duan* and *Naib Subah*, have manifested to us so much judgement and prudence as confirm us in the hope we had of the many advantages which would

thereby result both to the Company and to the country in general. And as we are fully satisfied of our President's constant and steady endeavors to effectuate every good purpose intended by that minister's dismission, we have the further pleasure to find that you are actuated by the same principle for the advancement of the Company's interest and welfare. We therefore rely on your continuing to yield him every assistance and support for the full accomplishment of all regulations which may conduce thereunto. Your unanimity in this respect will merit our highest commendation; and we doubt not but that the further measures you may take for effecting the same will ensure you our firmest protection.

4. By the time we may be furnished with the several records to which you refer us for a view of your proceedings on the subject of your late advices we hope to have leisure to take the same fully into consideration, and therefore by our next dispatch you may expect to receive our sentiments at large on the regulations and arrangements which you have made in the important points under your administration. These we purpose to communicate to you by the *Engle* packet, which we hold in readiness to convey to our several Presidencies such orders and instructions as it may be necessary for us to transmit before the dispatch of our annual ships.

5. Although it was not our intention to enter here on any other part of your advices than what relates to the measures taken by you in consequence of the displacing of Mahomet Reza Cawn from the *Nailship* of Bengal, yet when we consider the contumelious and evasive conduct of Mr. Holme (as represented in the 18th paragraph of your letter per *Nottingham*) and the disregard he has shewn to our interest as well as to your authority by his delaying, as Collector, to furnish you with the necessary papers to lead to a settlement of the Calcutta lands, we must declare that we do not esteem your removal of him from his office as a punishment equal to his offence. In order therefore to prevent any ill effects which such behaviour might have on the conduct of any other of our servants, and at the same time to enforce that obedience to your orders which we are resolved to maintain we direct that, upon the receipt hereof, Mr. Holme be suspended from our service, and continue so until we shall signify our further pleasure respecting him, unless he shall have atoned for his misconduct to your entire satisfaction before the receipt of these advices.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Hy. Crabb Boulton/Edwd Wheler/Jn.
Woodhouse/John Harrison/Wm. James/
Fredk. Pigou/Peter Du Cane Junr./Pct.
Lascelles/Henry Fletcher/Chas. Boddam/
George Tatem/Rd. Hall/Daniel Wier/Jn.
Michie/Samuel Peach/Joseph Sparkes/
Jno. Hawkesworth/T. B. Rous/John
Smith/Chas. Chambers Junr.

London,
16th April 1773.
[Per *Harcourt*]

LETTER DATED 29 OCTOBER 1773

*Commodore Hughes to command navy in the East Indies—new mode of
freighting ships.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since we wrote to you on the 16th April last by the ships *Harcourt* and *Egmont*, we have received the following advices from your Presidency, viz.,

General Letter in the Public Department dated 10th November 1772
received per *Lapwing* 17th April 1773.

Do.	Secret Department	10th November 1772	do.
Do.	Select Committee	do.	do.
Do.	Revenue Department	3rd do.	do.
Do.	Public do.	10th December	<i>Greenwich</i> 20th June
Do.	Select do.	do.	do.
Do.	Secret Committee	9th do.	do.
Do.	Revenue Department	3rd do.	do.
Do.	Public do.	6th January 1773 per <i>Triton</i>	8th October
Do.	Revenue do.	do. per <i>Prince of Wales</i>	12 August
Do.	Public do.	15th do.	do.
Do.	Secret Department	15th do.	do.
Do.	Select Committee	15th do.	do.
Do.	Public Department	31st do. Post 1st February per <i>D. Grafton</i>	31st July
Do.	do. do.	1st March	<i>Rockingham</i> 19th September
Do.	Secret do.	do.	do.
Do.	Select Committee	do.	do.
Do.	Revenue Department	27th February	do.
Do.	do. do.	25th March	<i>Hector</i> 5th October
Do.	Public do.	31st do.	do.
Do.	Secret do.	do.	do.
Do.	Select Committee	1st April	do.

2. His Majesty having been pleased to order the *Salisbury* man of war of 50 guns, Captain George Robinson Walters, and the *Sea-Horse* frigate of 20 guns, Captain George Farmer, under the command of Commodore Edward Hughes to proceed immediately to the East Indies we take the opportunity by those ships to apprize you of a few particulars which

are necessary for your earliest notice, and you will receive by the same conveyance triplicates of our letters of the 7th and 16th April, and triplicate of our letter of 16th April to our President Mr. Hastings.

3. Commodore Edward Hughes proceeds on the *Salisbury* to take upon him the chief command of His Majesty's ships in the East Indies on the departure of Sir Robert Harland to Europe.

4. The directions given in our letter of the 18th March 1771 relative to the conduct to be observed to the Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's ships are to be your guide untill further orders.

5. The present situation of our affairs having employed our utmost attention to the reducing, as much as possible, the expences of the Company at home as well as abroad, we have therefore fully considered the important articles of freight and demorage, and as we are of opinion a considerable saving may be made therein by freighting our ships at builders' measurement instead of the 499 tons, for which they have been usually taken up, we have for the present season at least adopted that mode by way of essay; the specific tonnage for which each ship, we have entertained in our service this season is let to us, will appear by the following list, as also the names of the ships and their commanders and the places to which they are consigned.

Ships' Names	Commanders	Burthen Tons	Consignments
<i>Asia</i>	William Dick Gamage	575	Coast and Bay
<i>Speke</i>	Jeffery Jackson	636	
<i>Sea-Horse</i>	David Arthur	592	
<i>Dutton</i>	Henry Rice	676	
<i>Pacifick</i>	Charles Berkley	585	
<i>Bute</i>	Richard Bendy	575	Coast and China
<i>Morse</i>	George Kent	864	
<i>True Briton</i>	John Broadley	758	
<i>Ceres</i>	Thomas Newte	716	
<i>York</i>	George Hayter	758	St. Helena and Bencoolen
<i>Stafford</i>	Thomas Liell Junior	804	Bombay and China
<i>Northumberland</i>	James Rees	575	Bombay
<i>Thames</i>	Daniel Clarke	592	
<i>Calcutta</i>	William Thomson	66	

6. You are to observe those taken up this season for the Coast and Bay (except the *Dutton*) are at £26-10 per ton with half freight for all exceedings homewards beyond the tonnage the ships are chartered for, and that the kintlage for every ship entertained this season is to be accounted in part of the loading of each for so many tons in goods as there are tons of kintlage.

7. But the ship *Dutton* is engaged at £ 3 per ton less than the other ships, upon condition that as large a quantity of goods is laden on her as

she can bring, upon the terms and conditions as will be fully expressed in her charterparty; you are therefore in concert with our Presidency of Fort St. George, to take care she be supplied accordingly; the ship *York* consigned to St. Helena and Bencoolen is taken up on the like terms as the *Dutton*.

8. And having, as an inducement to the owners to lower their freights, agreed that as large a quantity of surplus goods be at half freight on the other ships, except the *Dutton*, as they can with safety and convenience receive you are to comply therewith in respect to all such as shall be freighted from Coast and Bay.

9. We have also agreed with the owners that in case ships are dispatched from Bengal after the 10th March the Company is to pay demorage for the exceedings of so many days more than six months as such ships, using all reasonable expedition, shall be making their passage homeward, so that such exceedings do not amount to more than 120 days, and the owners are not to be accountable for any damages upon the cargoes of ships dispatched after the above time, it will therefore be a duty highly incumbent on you, to take care by a timely dispatch, to avoid the extraordinary demorage and loss which this stipulation may occasion.

10. But for your fuller information we refer you to the copies of the charterparties which will be sent in the several ships' packets.

11. We have built a ship named the *Eagle*, burthsn 220 tons, 36 men and 2 guns, the command of which we have given to Captain Edward Wilson, and consigned her to St. Helena and Fort St. George from which last place she is to be sent with stores and other necessities for Balambangan, but principally to convey some restrictive orders on an expensive plan of conduct our Chief and Council there has formed, but in case she should not be wanted for that service, she is then to be employed by you and our other Presidencies in India for the Company's best advantage, and if she shall not be wanted for any service she is then to be sold at such Presidency as shall be judged most for the Company's interest.

12. In case of Mr. Herbert's success in forming an establishment at Balambangan or elsewhere to the eastward and as we are desirous that every assistance be given to it, we enjoin you to comply with such indents as you may receive from thence (agreeable to our former orders) especially in the articles of piece goods and opium but more particularly in the last, as the prosperity of the settlement will chiefly depend on that article.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Edwd. Wheler/John Harrison/Fredk.
Pigou/Wm. James/Heny. Savage/
Daniel Wier/Peter Du Cane Junr./Jno.
Michie/Chas. Boddam/G. Tatem/
P. Lascelles/Joseph Sparkes/J. Hur-
lock/Chas. Chambers Junr./Samuel
Peach/Jno. Hawkesworth.

London,
29th October 1773.
[Per Salisbury]

LETTER DATED 10 DECEMBER 1773

Composition of new Secret Committee—Capt. Rennell's work commended—Sir Eyre Coote's share of commission on revenues—Act of Parliament limiting remittances to England by bills on Directors.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. His Majesty's ships *Salisbury* and *Sea-Horse* conveyed to you our last letter of the 29th October, and herewith you will receive triplicate and quadruplicate thereof.

2. By the *Asia* and *Bute*, now under dispatch for the Coast and Bay, we shall advise you of such matters as are usually noticed at the beginning of the season, and at the same time give you such observations and instructions respecting the affairs of your Presidency as we may deem necessary to transmit by the present conveyance.

3. Our last letter advised you on what terms the ships of this season are taken up. We have therefore only to recommend your strictest conformity to the charterparties of this ships consigned to Bengal, copy whereof is in each ship's packet.

4. The gentlemen whom we have constituted our Secret Committee for the present direction are Edward Wheler Esqr. Chairman, John Harrision Esqr. Deputy Chairman. Benjamin Booth, John Manship, Frederick Pigou and Henry Savage Esqrs. Any orders therefore that you may receive from them or any three of them relative to the safety of our shipping must be punctually obeyed.

5. The articles whereof our export to India and China this season will principally consist are:

For Bengal, cloth 330 bales, long ells 100 bales, and five bales of flannels, lead 280 tons, copper 550 tons, steel 75 tons, gunpowder 500 whole barrels, small arms 700.

Fort Fort St. George: cloth 1229 bales and 55 bales of long ells, copper 600 tons, iron 20 tons, steel 75 tons, gunpowder 500 barrels of 80 lbs. each. small arms 5250.

For Bombay: cloth 590 bales and 256 bales of long ells, copper 500 tons, lead 200 tons, iron 50 tons, steel 150 tons, small arms 2450.

For Bussora: long ells 259 bales of ten pieces each.

For China: cloth 847 bales and 700 bales of long ells, lead 240 tons.

For Fort Marlborough: iron 25 tons, steel 25 tons and 25 barrels of gunpowder.

6. You must continue to give our Presidency of Fort Marlborough all the assistance in your power by complying with their indents for such articles as we are unable to furnish them with.

7. The gentlemen we have appointed to be our Council in China

for managing the concern of the ships proceeding thither this season are Messrs. Edward Phipps, Francis Wood, William Harrison, Mathew Raper, John Bradby Blake, James Bradshaw, William Henry Pigou and George Rogers. The same gentlemen except Mr. Harrison (who is desirous of coming home) are appointed our Residents there in the year 1775.

8. From the considerable quantity of Madeira wine supposed to be already in India, and the state of the Company's finances at home we came to a resolution not to send any ships thither this season on the Company's account ; nevertheless being importuned by several of the commanders of our ships to permit them to touch there we have consented thereto on condition the Company is not put to any expence thereby. The ships under this licence are the *Asia*, *Bute*, *Ceres*, *Speke*, *Morse*, *Dutton* and *Thames*.

9. No indent for woollens nor an account of remains has been received from your Presidency since those per *Rochford* received in October 1772—by that account of remains it appeared that 7300 cloths and 4800 pieces long ells were remaining unsold. As the remains were then so very large only 330 bales of cloth and 100 bales of long ells will be consigned to Bengal this year. It is hoped the assortment of them will be found to be proper for the market; but unless an indent and an account of remains with proper remarks on the state of the woolen trade be regularly transmitted every year both by the first and latter ships, it is not to be expected that the quantity and assortment of woollens which would be most proper and advantageous for the market can be provided.

10. Our list of investment to be provided for the six ships now bound for the Coast and Bay will be transmitted by a future conveyance; in general till you receive it you must govern yourselves by the former list and advice always paying strict regard to fineness and quality in the goods you provide.

11. The quantity of saltpetre which we direct to be sent to Europe on all the ships now bound to India this season is two thousand tons. You will therefore concert with our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay what proportion thereof they may require and that you will supply them in time that the ships may not be detained on that account.

12. Although the ruinous state of your old Council House might render it necessary to rent one for holding councils and carrying on the business dependent thereon, we cannot but be of opinion that the sum of rupees 1000 per month which you have agreed to pay for it appears to us immoderate for the house of a private person. We observe you have intimated a desire to erect a new Council House with offices for several departments, and that you propose to transmit a compleat plan and estimate of the intended structure for our determination. We shall on receiving them communicate to you such directions as may be necessary and in the meantime we rely on your having adhered strictly to our orders not to commence new buildings until you shall have received our express permission for so doing.

13. The surveys which we have received from your Surveyor General, Captain Rennell, having given us proofs of his intelligence in that

branch of business, we cannot but have an additional pleasure in the testimony which has been given us of his assiduity and zeal in the execution of his duty, and Captain Rennell may be assured his merit will not be forgotten by us whenever we shall be able to shew him any marks of our favour, without giving cause of complaint to others of the same rank in our service.

14. The contrition which Mr. Holme has expressed for the disrespect he had shewn the Board and the promise he has given of a more becoming conduct in future, having been so satisfactory to our President and Council as to induce them to intercede in his behalf, you will signify to Mr. Holme that we are disposed to pass over his late offence, and that no retrospect his former behaviour will be had so long as his conduct shall justify us in continuing our favour to him

15. From considering the state of the establishments of our forces at our several principal settlements in India, we have been induced this year to lessen the number of military recruits and shall therefore send only about 250 to Fort St. George, 550 to Bengal, 50 to Bombay. Those for your Presidency will be shipped on the *Asia*, *Bile*, *Speke*, *Sea-Horse*, *Pacific* and *Dutton*, and those for Fort St. George on the *Ceres*, *Morse* and *Præ Briton*.

16. The like reason has inclined us not to send any cadets to either of the above Presidencies this season.

17. We have permitted Lieutenant George Sampson who came to England with your permission to return to his duty without prejudice to his former rank.

18. We cannot so far comply with your expectations as to approve of the favour you have shewn Captain John Smith in granting him a major's commission on his intimating his intentions to leave India, for, as you acknowledge, that his pretensions to such rank were not well founded, we cannot consider such indulgence as free from all inconvenience since the same may be pleaded as a precedent by others who may be solicitous to retire with distinctions to which they are not entitled by their standing in our service. We, however, shall content ourselves with observing that we expect you in future, not to grant indulgence of this kind merely for the gratification of particular views or desires.

19. We are much displeased at the license taken by our President and Council in granting all allowance of 7 months pay to Major Stainforth¹ on account of the extraordinary length of his passage on board the *Morse* and his detention at Fort St. George, and our displeasure is not lessened by their having taken an obligation from him to refund the same should it not be approved by us, since, by such advance they have acknowledged the reasonableness of Major Stainforth's application for an allowance on the above account.

20. However though we think it necessary to declare our entire disapprobation of their conduct therein, yet as from the uncommon length of the *Morse's* passage, and the loss which the officers sustained in the

voyage, we were induced to indulge those attached to the Coast establishment which an allowance of four months pay, we shall not refuse the same to Major Stainforth; but we expect and request that he forthwith pay into our treasury, the amount of the three months pay which he has received more than what had been allowed the officers belonging to Madras.

21. You are further to observe that indulgence in this respect is by no means to be considered as a precedent, nor are any allowances of this kind to be made in future, whatever expectations may be formed, or pleas offered from circumstance of a similar nature.

22. We cannot omit this occasion to declare ourselves highly pleased with the regard that Mr. Reed has shewn to our authority, in his dissenting to this measure and declaring his opinion that Major Stainforth's application should have been referred to this Court, and as Mr. Reed notices the difficulty of getting refunded such payments as may not be approved by us, even when the party be remaining in India, we find it necessary to direct that in case Major Stainforth shall not forthwith repay the sum which we have disallowed, the same we made good by such of our servants as consented to the advance which had been made him,

23. The person of the name of West, formerly an officer in our service on the Coast, who escaped from the confinement he was under for deserting to Hyder Ali, having since entered into the employ of our open and avowed enemy Cossim Ally Khan, and by a proposal made to the Vizier for the total extirpation of the English manifested the most inveterate malignity to the Company and even a traitrous disposition to his country, we cannot but be anxious to prevent the mischief which a person lost to every principle of honour may attempt, and, therefore, direct, that if at any time you may be able to secure the said West, you do not fail to send him a prisoner to England by the first British ship which shall leave Bengal after the apprehending of him.

24. We have considered the case of Mr. Stormonth, surgeon on your establishment, and as from the commendations you have given him and the decency with which he solicits our favour, we have reason to believe that his omitting to notify to us, on his arrival in England, the cause which obliged him to leave India was owing to his being unacquainted with the form which we have prescribed to be observed by those who intend to return to their stations in our service, it is therefore our pleasure, that 22 months be added to his present rank agreeably to his request

25. The reasons assigned in your letter of 15th January last for granting bills on us to the amount of Lord Clive's *jaghire* for the two last years have induced us to acquiesce in your drawing for the same in one season; but as in pursuance of an act passed in the last session of Parliament, we have found it necessary for the present to limit your bills on us to a sum which will not admit of your indulging His Lordship with a greater proportion thereof, than the amount of one year's *jaghire*, we direct, that you do not without further orders receive into our treasury, from the attornies of Lord Clive for drafts to be passed on the Court of Directors in

one season a greater sum than the amount of His Lordship's *jaghire* for one year.

26. Among the soldiers who have come to England by the ships lately arrived was Richard Sim, a private of infantry in Bengal, who to our great surprize brought no other voucher from you than the common discharge of having served his contracted time, although his leg had been amput[ated] in consequence of wounds received in actual service as appeared by a certificate given him by Captain Hanson to whose company he belonged.

27. This is not the first instance of soldiers applying to us without the requisite testimonials whom we have nevertheless found upon a minute enquiry to be qualified for the pension, you must be sensible this is an irregularity and that oversights of this nature besides giving us a good deal of trouble might prove injurious to persons who have a just title to the charity. In order therefore to obviate similar mistakes in future, you will give directions that every soldier whom you shall think entitled to the pension be furnished with all the proper vouchers before he leaves India as prescribed by the deed^a and recommended in our former letters. And as it may sometimes happen that these men lose their vouchers you must always send authenticated copies of them in a separate paper in the packet by the ships in which they take their passage.

28. We have further to observe that we find it appears by the discharges given to such persons as have returned to England at their own request, that it has been a rule with you only to mention in general terms that they served their contracted term of five years, whereas as it has been made evident to us upon enquiry that several men who had brought no other voucher had been in the service long before, some of them from fifteen to twenty years, insomuch that some who had been found entitled to the pension as superannuated, and others whose pretensions did not amount to the pension we have nevertheless thought deserving of larger gratuities and encouragement than men who served but five years in all.

29. We therefore desire that in the discharges you shall give in future (as well as to those you recommend to the pensions as those you do not) you will always particularize that exact space of time the parties shall have served the Company in the whole either within the limits of your own Presidency, or if it can be ascertained, in any other part of India before they came to you.

30. Our President and Council of Bombay having some time since pleaded with us in behalf of those widows of European officers, who either from being natives of India or from other causes cannot conveniently repair to England, to receive the benefit of our Military Fund, and being fully sensible of the hardship it might be to such widows to insist on the proceeding hither for that purpose, and as the deed for establishing the said fund does not expressly require the objects of it to reside in any particular place, we have come to the following resolutions, viz.

“That upon proper proofs of their husbands deaths and the other

testimonials specified in the deed being transmitted by our Governors and Councils such persons as are or shall be entitled to a pension but cannot leave India be admitted by this Court. That upon the admission of any such pensioner or pensioners advice be sent out by the first dispatches to the Governor and Council where they reside with orders to pay such persons the amount of their pensions at the times of payment mentioned in the printed deed and regulations.

“That the Governors and Councils do keep a distinct account of all monies so paid and regularly transmit the same home upon a separate paper in the packet, and that in the meantime they do grant such persons as may already have appeared or shall hereafter appear to them to have a just claim to the pension but cannot repair to Europe on allowance equal to but not exceeding the sum they will be respectively entitled to (according to the ranks of their husbands as prescribed by the deed) until the proper vouchers be received by the Court of Directors and their final determination shall be had thereupon”.

31. We therefore take this opportunity to advise you of our resolutions in this respect and to direct you to govern yourselves accordingly; and should you have already made allowances to such widows whom you may have considered as entitled to the benefit of the Military Fund, we further direct that you transmit us together with the necessary testimonials thereof, an account of the respective sums which have been paid to each person.

32. You have already been acquainted of our appointment of Mr. George Livius as a writer upon your establishment, and we have been informed that from his age and experience in mercantile transactions he has obtained such knowledge as may enable him to be of more service to the Company than he can be if confined to the business that is assigned to our writers in general; we therefore direct that upon the first vacancy of the office of Sub Accountant that may happen after his arrival in Bengal, he do succeed thereto with the same appointment in regard to his succession to the post of Accountant and upon the same terms as were settled in the 37 paragraph of our General Letter of the 7th April 1773 relative to Mr. Wood. And that until such appointment shall take place, Mr. Livius do enjoy his rank in the civil line with the salaries and allowance usually allotted thereto.

33. In our letter of the 7th April 1773, we advised the appointment of Mr. Philip Cole to be a writer at your Presidency; in order therefore to prevent any mistake we now acquaint you that the person appointed was Mr. Philip Coales who by the list of military officers received by the *Director* ranked as an ensign on your establishment; you must therefore call upon him to execute the covenants sent out last year (if not already done) and return them by the first ship.

34. The Christian name of Mr. Teasdale, appointed a writer by our letter of 25th March 1772, is Charles William instead of Richard as then advised.

35. From the address of Mr. Keighley to your Board, respecting his behaviour since he incurred our displeasure for negligence in the office he held under the Military Paymaster, we have the satisfaction to find that his subsequent diligence justifies our forgiveness of his past misconduct, and particularly that in the station of Supervisor in the Bahar Province he not only discharged his duty with becoming assiduity and attention but manifested a meritorious regard for the interest of the Company, it is therefore our pleasure that Mr. Keighley be restored to his original rank in our service; and we hope and trust that by a perseverance in the same good conduct he has lately observed, he will render himself worthy of our future favour.

36. Sir Eyre Coote, whom we appointed in the year 1770 the Commander-in-Chief of all the Company's forces in the East Indies, having lately applied to us for payment of his salary and allowance we have, from a consideration of the merit of that gallant and experienced officer, agreed to his receiving his full salary and allowances (as settled in our letter of January 1770) from the 30th June 1770 being the time of his arrival at Fort St. George to the 28th of January 1773 at which period we informed him we had no further occasion for his services; we have accordingly paid him here the amount of his salary for that term which is £ 3,866-13-4 and have directed our servants on the Coast to pay to his attornies at Madrass such further sum as shall be his proportion of commission on the revenues^s of Fort St. George and Bengal.

37. Having informed you of our determination in respect to Sir Eyre Coote's commission, we cannot forbear expressing our surprize at finding that, notwithstanding our orders of the 17th January 1770, for your deducting from the full amount of commission of 2½ per cent on the nett territorial revenues of Bengal, one eighteenth part to be reserved for General Coote's share, you have distributed the whole of that commission amongst our civil and military servants from the time of Sir Eyre Coote's leaving India.

38. And as our President and Council have taken upon themselves to make such division of the share we had expressly appropriated for General Coote, we direct, that such of the members of your Board as consented thereto do forthwith pay into our treasury in Bengal the full amount of such share from the time of Sir Eyre Coote's return to England to the 28th January 1773. For as to the recovery of the several proportions which have been paid to our civil and military servants, it rests wholly with yourselves to pursue such measures as you may judge expedient, since under such a deviation from our orders as hath been shewn in this instance, we hold the members of our Council responsible to us from [for] the reimbursement of the sums so unduly paid.

39. Upon the request of the executors of Captain Henry Spelman, deceased, for disbursements made by him on our account, we directed in our letter of the 25th March 1772 that an enquiry should be made into their claim and that you should advise us fully thereon that we might be enabled to adjust the same here, to which you have not returned any ans-

wer; and the executors having renewed their request for payment agreeable to the copy of their memorial enclosed, we hereby direct that you adjust all accounts which may be pending between the Company and the late Captain Spelman and if any balance shall be due to his estate you must pay the same to his executor's attornies on their application.

40. Mr. William Richardson who was appointed a cadet for your Presidency in 1770 (and was directed to rank next below Mr. Dyson Marshall) and also Mr. James Crisp (who was appointed the following year and ranked in the list next below Mr. Edward Seymer) having gone by mistake to Fort St. George, we have directed that Presidency to send Messrs. Richardson and Crisp to Bengal and on their arrival with you they are to take rank agreeable to their original appointment.

41. Several persons having solicited us to grant them our license for proceeding to the East Indies to recover their outstanding effects, we have agreed on condition that they return to England at the expiration of the three years they are severally allowed to remain. A list of their names will be forwarded in the packets by the ships whereon they take passage.

42. The present circumstances of our China trade having compelled us to confine it within as narrow bounds as can be possibly done, therefore only three ships from hence and the *Bishoro qh* from the Malabar Coast are consigned to load from Canton in the year 1774, and whether the China Council shall according to the directions of the last season, of which you were apprised, have diverted four of the ships then consigned to them or not it appears to us they will have an ample stock not only to provide sufficient returns for the present outset, but also to leave a handsome surplus to the amount of £100,000 at least to be made over to the commission for the year 1775.

43. Under those circumstances and the present situation of our affairs here, our orders of last year to the said Council are renewed precluding them from passing any bills on us for specie or the produce of any goods which may have been sent on private account, from any of our Presidencies or elsewhere to Canton or any other account whatsoever; you are therefore, according to our orders of last season to take care not to make, and to prevent any consignments being made to Canton which may create any draughts for money on our treasury here, and these directions are to continue in force until the contrary shall be signified.

44. Nevertheless confiding in your ability and alacrity to give all possible assistance to this material branch of commerce without making us answerable for the value thereof, we direct that you exert yourselves in contributing as far as may be in your power either by merchandize or cash to the increase of our stock at Canton.

45. On looking into the transcript or copy of the proceedings in the cause against Mr. Forbes^d which is transmitted for the purpose of being used in the appeal he has made to His Majesty in Council against the decree or judgment of the President and Council as a cause of appeal from the

decree of the Mayor's Court, we are sorry to find that copies of many material papers in the cause are neglected or omitted to be sent, without which it is impracticable for us to bring this appeal on to a hearing namely copies of the depositions of the witnesses and of all the exhibits in the cause; it is surprizing it could escape your notice that the foundation of the arguments made use of in the original decree of the Mayor's Court, arises from the depositions of two of the witnesses and on accounts which are proved as exhibits. It is impossible for the Lords of Appeal to form their judgments without resorting to evidence, and we are the more surprized at the want of it, as in the instructions for carrying the charter of justice into execution which you ought always to have before you, the following order will be found under the head of appeals to the Governor and Council, vizt. "To this appeal Copies of the material proceedings such as the Bill answer Depositions and Decrees together with Copies of the Vouchers if delivered, must be annexed and being connected or tyed together should be sealed with the Seal of the Court of the President and Council and delivered to the Appellant and a Duplicate to the Appellee to be brought into England". We shall be already delayed by this omission and direct that you immediately send over copies of the interrogatories, depositions and exhibits in the cause properly authenticated and also a copy of the dissents entered by Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Montaignut to the original decree.

46. We have appointed several persons to be volunteers in your pilot service^a agreeable to lists in the packets on which they take passage and it is our positive order that all such persons as have been or shall be entertained for that service be not employed in any other department and upon their resignation or discharge they must be sent to England by the first ships, and that we may be satisfied they are so employed we further direct that you to [do] send us annually, in duplicate by the first and last ships of the season, compleat lists of all persons employed in our marine^a and pilot service and also of all casualties which happen therein from time to time.

47. The subject of remittances through the Company's cash, by bills of exchange on the Court of Directors, having been considered in the last session of Parliament a law was accordingly enacted restricting the Company from accepting or otherwise binding themselves for the payment of any bills of exchange drawn by any of their officers or servants at any of their Presidencies in the East Indies for any sum exceeding three hundred thousand Pounds, exclusive of certificates to the amount of five thousand pounds to the commanders and officers of each of the Company's ships in the space of any one year without the consent or order of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury or the High Treasurer for the time being.

48. It therefore only remains with us to notify the said law to our servants in India and to proportion the draughts allowed to be made on us for the said three hundred thousand pounds which we hereby do so far

as concerns your Presidency in the following manner :

To Bengal one hundred and fifty five thousand pounds to be remitted by our civil and military servants, and the further sum of twenty five thousand pounds one moiety of which latter sum we would have reserved for the benefit of free merchants and others not in the Company's service, and the other moiety for the advantage of deceased persons estates, and of persons returned from the Company's service.

49. And it is our pleasure that in the said sum of £155,000 you are to include Lord Clive's *jaghire*, which with the sum of £25,000 as abovementioned (making together £180,000) is to be considered as the total amount of the bills to be drawn by you in the course of one year commencing from the 1st August 1774 and ending the 31st July 1775, but we do not mean to include in that sum the £5,000 for which you are permitted in pursuance of the said Act to grant certificates to the commanders and officers of each of the Company's ships during the course of their voyage.

50. And it is also our pleasure that in the abovementioned sum of £25,000 you do include the sum of £5,000 which is about one third part of the amount of the late Mr. Watts's effects as mentioned in our letter of the 25th March 1772.

51. The bills you may draw for at 2s.-2½ d. each current rupee and must be made payable at 12 months and not at 365 days after sight without interest, and the certificates must be made as usual without mentioning either the rate of exchange or the term for payment.

52. Whatever else is needful for your information upon this matter will appear by the Act above referred to, copies whereof have been and will be transmitted in the packets by the ships *Asia* and *Bute*.

53. We shall send to Bencoolen by the ship *York* and permit our servants there to draw on us for £30,000 which treasure and bills with the assistance they may receive from you and our servants at Fort St. George, we trust will be adequate to their demand for their expences and the pepper investment.

54. Mr. Verelst has presented a letter to us stating that the American agents had brought actions against him, and that he was advised it would be very material for his defence that a commission should be sent to Bengal for the examination of witnesses, We hereby direct you to give to the commissioners mentioned in the abovementioned letter (copy of which is herewith sent) or any others he may appoint all the assistance in your power to enable them fully to effect the purpose of that commission.

55. The assignees of Miguil Van Colster^r, a bankrupt, having made an application to us (of which copy is enclosed) that an interest note for current rupees 59,525-7 deposited in your hands for the account of the bankrupt with the interest thereon may be paid to them or as they shall direct and to no other person or persons whomsoever, and upon considering the same and referring to your Consultations of the 21st September 1772 it appeared by a letter therein referred to, that the attornies of Mr. George

Dallas who were in possession of a bill of exchange drawn by the said bankrupt for current rupees 2,883 upon Bolackidass, a banker in Calcutta who was dead before the bill arrived and to which his executor had refused payment, intended to bring a suit against the President and Council of Fort William as attornies to the said Van Colster for recovery of the amount of the said bill of exchange and interest; we therefore direct you to pay to the legal attornies of the said assignees the sum of current rupees 59,525-7, received into the treasury of Fort William, provided no suit is depending or if any suit has been commenced in case no decree has been made in favour of Mr. Dallas, but if such decree has passed you must then deduct out of the aforesaid money, the sum so recovered or in case a suit should be depending, you are to retain in your hands the sum for which such sum is commenced until the event thereof shall be determined. And you must also deduct the amount of the bills drawn by the said Van Colster in the year 1769 on Bolackidass payable to the President and Council at Fort William for money advanced here by the Court of Directors to the said Van Colster, if those bills shall not have been already paid.

56. We are much concerned at the information we received per *Nottingham* of the loss of our ship *Duke of Albany* at her entrance into Bengal river, and though we find from the account you gave us of such loss that it was owing to the shifting of the lower buoy of the Barabulla, which caused the pilot to miss the proper track, yet as it is highly necessary examples should be made in order to engage your pilots to be strictly attentive to their duty, and as you intimate that the pilot of the *Duke of Albany* was guilty of an error, in not anchoring on the first discovery of his mistake, we cannot but approve of your having dismissed him from our employ, but as you have represented that from the general reputation of Mr. Evers and the particular circumstances which attended the loss of the *Duke of Albany* you were of opinion that misfortune rather than mismanagement occasioned it, you will take Evers's case again under your consideration, and as he represents his eye sight by long service is rendered very bad, that you do grant him some present relief should he stand in need of it, and state his circumstances to us, that we may take the same into our further consideration.

57. As it is our intention, that the new mode of chartering our ships of which you have already been advised, should mutually benefit both the Company and owners and in order to obtain that desirable end we direct that you take the earliest opportunity of informing yourselves of the quantity of tonnage at all our Presidencies and that you do by a proper communication with each other, so manage and [sic] that all our ships may return with as full loadings as they can "with safety and convenience receive", and as from the best judgment we can form upon the capacity of the ships we have no reason to doubt but that they will all be able to bring the whole of their builder's tonnage at the least (though those to Coast and Bay are taken up seven eighths only) you will therefore provide and regulate accordingly that this mode may have every advantage of a fair trial.

58. However should it happen after concerting with our other Presidencies (to whom on the same subject similar directions are given) and availing yourselves of the information you may receive from Bencoolen, agreeable to the orders we have sent thither for advising you of the quantity of pepper remaining after loading the *York*, you still should not be able to fill the ships which will fall under your management but that the last ship should want 50, 60 or even 100 tons to compleat her cargo we would rather she should be returned to us than remain a season in India.

59. But in case you cannot, after exerting your utmost endeavours, give cargoes to all the ships then we must submit to your detaining one of them in the country for a season, and in that event you must employ such ship in the most advantageous manner for our benefit or let her to freight to Mocha, Judda, Batavia or elsewhere so as to earn her demorage at least taking care that her said employ does not prevent her returning to you in such time as to be dispatched to Europe early the ensuing season.

60. Having communicated to you our wishes in as precise terms as the subject will admit the foregoing paragraphs we shall only add that, if after loading the *York* from Bencoolen there should remain two or three hundred tons of pepper and if upon making an arrangement of the goods necessary to compleat the lading of the ships from your Presidency there shall appear a deficiency to that amount we then direct that the first ship which arrives with you be sent thither to [take] in the same we say the first, as by so doing a considerable expence in demorage will be saved, and as it appears to us that our settlement of Fort Marlborough is in want of rice you are to lade on such ship a quantity of that article with any other that they may stand in need of.

61. It is necessary here to inform you that we shall direct our servants at Bombay if they cannot load home all the ships consigned thither to send one of them to you previously putting on board her all such goods as may remain or as they can procure after making a proper provision for the cargoes of those ships which are to be returned to us and on such ships arrival at Bengal she is to be filled and dispatched home agreeable to the beforementioned directions relative to the ships consigned to you from hence.

62. Or if contrary to our expectations, as above represented, you and our servants at Fort St. George should be in want of more tonnage than can be laden on the six ships now consigned thither (instead of detaining a ship in the country) in such case we would have you desire our Presidency of Bombay to send round the *Northumberland* to Fort St. George or Bengal in order to be returned home from either of those Presidencies.

We are,
Your loving friends,
Edwd. Wheler/John Harrison/Fredk.
Pigou/J. Manship/George Cuming/J.

London.
10th December 1773.

Hurlock/Samuel Peach/Chas. Boddam/
G. Tatem/Peter Du Cane Junr./Rd.
Hall/Petr. Lascelles/Chas. Chambers
Junr./Wm. James/John Smith/Jn.
Michie/Jn. Woodhouse/Daniel Wier.

7

LETTER DATED 7 JANUARY 1774

Unserviceable arms and stores to be accounted for—Major Morgan's memorial against his dismissal—proposal for opening trade with Bhutan and Assam.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote to you under date of 10th December last by the ships *Asia*, *Bute* and *Sea-horse*; their times of sailing will appear by the lists in the packets of the *Spoke* and *Dutton* now under dispatch.

2. As the ships *Spoke* and *Dutton* are now under dispatch for the Coast and Bay the present gives cover to their invoices and bills of loading and other papers in their packets, and to inform you that we shall transmit our full remarks and orders on your advices by the *Pacifick*, and some of the Bombay ships which we shall order to touch at your settlement in their way thither.

3. The Import Warehousekeeper at Fort St. George having reported that none of the lead of the preceeding year was sold, nor any demand for it, we have consigned the 130 tons intended for that Presidency to Bengal, but have authorized our President and Council at Fort St. George to detain any part thereof they may want, if from any alteration of circumstances they should have occasion for it.

4. Your abstracts of receipts, issues and remains of naval stores should always bear the same date with and accompany the indents; this year the indent for naval stores was sent by the *Lapwing*, and the remains by the *Duke of Grafton*, and for want of the latter, we were under great difficulty to determine on the quantities of each article that should be provided.

5. We direct that the indents for naval stores be settled jointly by the Master Attendant and Naval Storekeeper, who ought to be the properest judges of what comes so expressly in their department and to submit the same to the approbation of the Governor and Council.

6. Two iron furnaces were designed for melting metal. We want to know for what purpose the metal is intended, for if it is designed for making shot they must be sent at some future time.

7. No indents having been received last year or this for stationary we could only order a proportion of the very same articles as had been shipped the preceeding season.

8. We have shipped on the *Pacifick* one ton of manufactured copper of a particular sort sent by way of tryal, it is therefore desired to report whether it is esteemed before other sorts, and sells proportionally better; both the copper and cases are marked NR Crown.

9. It does not appear by the books how the unserviceable arms are disposed of, new ones are issued for the brigades; the Storekeeper before he issues any new arms, should receive the old ones into store and account for them in the general books. And we positively direct that you do transmit to us an account of the number of musquets, pistols, swords and cartage boxes that have been received from the brigades as unserviceable, from 1770 to 1772 both inclusive, and you are constantly to make a head for unserviceable stores in the Storekeepers account of remains. An entry must also be made of such stores as are sent in to be repaired, and to write them off when again issued for service.

10. An account of unserviceable brass and iron ordnance and military stores, mentioning their nature and number, also the weight of such articles as can be so described, must always make a number in the packet by such ship on which they are sent, and a duplicate by some other conveyance.

11. Philip Affleck Esqr. having presented a memorial to us requesting that the sum of current rupees 725000, being the amount of interest refunded by the agents of the Navy Donation in India, may not be retained, and also that there may be added to the credit of the donation account in India the sum of £ 8,684-17-11, being the difference of 2½ d. per rupee, on the amount of the second moiety of the donation, which is a loss the claimants alledge they must suffer as 2s. per current rupee is the highest course of exchange at which they can now expect to receive the same; we have taken the said request into full consideration, and having had recourse to your advices and Consultations upon the subject, we hereby direct, that as the account of the second moiety of the donation hath been liquidated, and the said sum of rupees 72,500 been charged in the abovementioned account and allowed by the agents, that you repay the same to them or their attornies and it is our pleasure that you pay the outstanding interest notes given for the second moiety of the donation, with such sums as may be due thereon for interest to the holders thereof when the same shall become due, and be tendered for payment; and that you also pay to the said agents such further sum as shall be equal to three eighths of a penny per rupee, upon the whole donation.

12. Major Charles Morgan¹, upon his arrival in England, having presented to us a memorial setting forth that he had been dismissed the Company's service in consequence of his address to the President and Council upon the censure which they passed, in public orders, on the members of a court martial held at Berhampoor for the trial of Capt. David Mackenzie², and justifying his own conduct as President of the said court, we have taken into mature consideration, with the assistance of our Council, all the proceedings thereon, and your advices relative thereto, and are of

opinion that our President and Council should not have concerned themselves with the proceedings of the court martial, further than to have approved, disapproved or ordered them to have been once revised conformably to Act of Parliament; and deeming the part they took in this matter, not only improper but severe, we have restored Major Morgan to his former rank. And as by his dismissal he would have sustained great loss, and has incurred considerable expence, we have agreed to allow him his whole pay and emoluments from the time of his dismissal which you are hereby required to pay him on his applying for the same. We have also paid here to Major Morgan the sum of £200, towards defraying the expences of his passage to England, and return to Bengal.

13. Mr. Baillie having represented the benefits that may be obtained by exploring the interior parts of Buttan, Assam and other countries adjacent to Gaulparah, having resided in those parts several years, where he made himself acquainted with the trade of those countries, that a very profitable commerce may be carried on by the disposal thereof large quantities of woollens and metals, and returns in lacks of all sorts, *mu-gga* silks, black pepper and specie, and being very desirous of availing ourselves of this valuable branch of trade, we direct that you make these matters the objects of your particular and immediate enquiry, and report specially to us, in what manner and to what extent the Company may [be] benefitted by opening a trade to those countries, and as the proposal of Mr. Baillie appears calculated for our interest, he may be employed in promoting that undertaking if there shall appear good reasons to prosecute it, with a prospect of success, and provided he shall be better qualified for it than any of our civil servants.

14. Mr. John Sampson whom we directed to succeed to the post of Deputy Master Attendant at your Presidency, having on his arrival in England applied to return to Bengal, to avail himself of our recommendation, and it appearing by your advices, that he came to England with your license for the recovery of his health, which being re-established, we have permitted him to return, and direct that on his arrival he do succeed to the office of Deputy Master Attendant, if that post shall have been vacated by Mr. Deane, and to succeed on a vacancy as Master Attendant on the avoidance of that office either by Captain Wedderburne or Mr. Deane, in preference to any appointment that may have been made by you to either of those offices.

15. We also considered the case of Captain David Cuming recommended by you in the General Letter of the 1st March 1773 and being desirous of giving every encouragement to the merits of our servants, we direct that he succeed to the office of Deputy Master Attendant or of Master Attendant immediately after Mr. Sampson agreeable to our letter of the 15th September 1769.

16. As the office of Naval Storekeeper should be filled by a person well acquainted with marine affairs we have appointed Mr. Page Keble (who has distinguished himself as an able and good officer in our marine

at Bombay and as Master Attendant in Bengal) to fill up the station of Marine Storekeeper at your Presidency with the appointments his predecessors enjoyed for executing that office.

17. As we perceive the very great expence and disbursements which are monthly issued for the pay of the artificers and other persons employed in the Marine Department, and the payment of which must in the absence of our Master Attendant from Calcutta devolve to the clerks and banyans without any check over them, we direct that the payment of our marine and all disbursements in that department be made by one of our civil servants as is done at our Presidency of Bombay who is also to muster the people monthly and to take particular care that none but such who are actually employed in the Company's service be included in the pay roll; this will ease our Master Attendant and thereby enable him to attend more minutely to the reduction of the heavy expences we are at for our marine, and also establish a necessary and constant check on payments made in the Marine Department. [.....]^s be put in charge of the trust immediately on his arrival the Company incurring no expence thereby.

18. We have drawn a sett of bills of exchange at thirty days sight and two shillings and two pence half penny per rupee.

One sett for rupees 905-10-8 payable to Mr. }	
Robert Pott for pounds sterling one hundred received }	Rs. 905-10-8, £100
here of Mr. Percival Pott dated 14th December 1773. }	

We are,

Your loving friends,

Edwd. Wheler/John Harrison/J. Manship/
 Fredk. Pigou/Wm. James/Jn. Woodhouse/
 Daniel Wier/J. Hurlock/Chas. Boddam/
 Peter Du Cane Junr./Jno. Michie/Rd.
 Hall/Pet. Lascelles/Samuel Peach/George
 Cuming/John Smith/Chas. Chambers Junr.

London,
 7th January 1774.

LETTER DATED 2 FEBRUARY 1774

Acts of Parliament relating to the Company—detailed instructions to Governor General and Council consequent on the passing of the Regulating Act—separate commissions for Hastings and Clavering.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Although you were informed in our last letter dated the 7th ultimo, that the ship *Pacifick* by which this is transmitted would convey to you our full remarks and orders on your advices, we must now acquaint you that from the many differences in opinion which have of late subsisted

amongst the proprietors of the Company upon very essential points relative more immediately to the government and management of our affairs at your Presidency, we have not yet been able to enter into full discussion of your advices and therefore we shall now only forward the usual papers, and inform you of such particulars as require your present attention.

2. By the Acts of last session of Parliament (printed copies of which were sent you on the *Bayle* packet) you will doubtless have noticed the two then passed regarding the East India Company and more especially that entitled "An Act for Establishing certain Regulations for the Better Management of the Affairs of the East India Company as well in India as in Europe". The instructions proper to be given by the Company to the Governor General and Council appointed by the said Act have been the points of discussion above alluded to. But the Court of Proprietors having agreed by ballot to certain instructions to be given to the said Governor General and Council we now send you printed copies thereof for your observation, and lest by any accident you should not have received the two Acts above referred to we transmit to you by this ship other copies thereof.

3. His Majesty's ministers having entertained the ships *Anson* and *Earl of Ashburnham* for a voyage to India to convey three gentlemen now in England constituted Councillors at our Presidency of Fort William, as also the judges and ministerial officers of the new court of judicature to be established by His Majesty's Royal Charter in Bengal in consequence of the said Act; we purpose by those ships to describe the terms wheron we shall permit them to be sold in India as likewise the conditions upon which the commanders, officers and seamen will be allowed by us to remain at any of our settlements, unless they should be required so to do for His Majesty's service.

4. We have permitted Mr. William Marriott who came to England for the recovery of his health and Messrs. John Wilkinson and Robert Gregory who were appointed writers last season to remain in England untill next year without prejudice to their ranks.

5. We licensed Mr. George Salmon a senior merchant at Fort Marlborough to proceed to and remain in Bengal two years but he is on no pretence to remain there longer on pain of dismission from our service.

6. Mr. John Laird having served us with reputation as surgeon to the China factory for some time we have been induced to appoint him a surgeon at your Presidency to rank from 23rd February 1771.

7. Mr. Charles Bromfield who went on His Majesty's ship *Sea-horse* applied to us for permission to remain in India to practice as a surgeon where his services may be wanted and approved, but as he was not examined as to his abilities in physic and surgery we did not comply with his request.

8. Herewith you will receive the list of goods to be provided at your Presidency for the ships taken up this season with our observations upon the investment last received which must have the same obedience paid thereto as if they were inserted in this letter.

9. As it has appeared for several years past that many pieces have been wanting of what were invoiced in the bales (particularly in those received in the year 1772) notwithstanding they came in good condition and did not appear to have been opened or plundered we direct that you do in future demand annually of the Export Warehousekeeper the amount of such pieces as shall be so described in the accounts annually transmitted you.

10. Since our last letter we have thought proper to delay the departure of the two last Bombay ships the *Calcutta* and *Stafford* in order to convey to you our full orders and instructions to as late a period as possible.

11. Our letter of the 7th April last was accompanied with a list of the different characters of raw silk and an account of the profit and loss thereon for the years 1771 and 1772 and we now transmit to you a like list and account for the years 1772 and 1773 by which you will observe there has been an increasing loss instead of any alteration for the better in the last year's production; it is therefore become highly necessary that you should exert your utmost endeavours to remedy an evil which seems to threaten this valuable branch of national commerce with utter ruin. And as we find you have already entered seriously upon the consideration of the subject, and are apprized of the inconveniences which have attended the provision of raw silk and contributed to enhance the price, we cannot but hope that your next advices will bring us a favorable account of the operation of your intended regulation and of such reduction of the price of this important article as shall enable us to obtain a profit thereon, in future, instead of so considerable a loss which we can no longer sustain.

12. Having examined into the case of Thos. Pryce, who formerly served as an officer at your Presidency, we have resolved to restore him to our military establishment there and direct that he take his rank as youngest lieutenant upon his arrival in Bengal.

13. We have drawn a set of bills of exchange payable at thirty days sight and two shillings and two pence half penny per rupee.

One set for current rupees five hundred	} Rs. As. P.
and forty three six annaes and four pice in	
favor of Mr. John Hill for pounds sterling	
sixty received here of Mr. Haydock Hill	
	543 - 6 - 4 £60

We are,

Your loving friends,

Edwd. Wheler/John Harrison/J. Manship/
 Fred. Pigou/J. Hurlock/Danial Wier/Wm.
 James/Jno. Michie/Chas. Boddam/Rd. Hall/
 Henry Fletcher/George Cuming/P. Las-
 celles/George Tatem/Joseph Sparkes/Samuel
 Peach/John Smith/Chas. Chambers Junior/
 Heny. Savage.

London,
 2nd February 1774.

LETTER DATED 29 MARCH 1774

INSTRCTIONS from the Court of Directors of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies. To Warren Hastings Esquire Governor General, Lieutenant General John Clavering, the Honorable George Monson, Richard Barwell Esquire and Philip Francis Esquire, Counsellors constituted and appointed the Governor General and Council of the said United Company's Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, by an Act of Parliament passed in the last session, intituled "An Act for establishing certain regulations for the better management of the Affairs of the East India Company, as well in India as in Europe."

The Legislature of this Kingdom having entrusted you with the civil and military government of the said Presidency of Fort William, and also with the ordering, management and government of all the territorial acquisitions and revenues in the kingdoms of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, for the term, and in the manner directed and prescribed by the said Act, (to which you will refer yourselves, with respect to the execution of such powers, and the observance of such rules and directions therein contained, as are incumbent on you to execute and perform) we, the said Court of Directors, in virtue of the power reserved in the said Act, whereby the said Governor General and Council, for the time being, are directed and required to pay due obedience to all such orders as they shall receive from the Court of Directors of the said United Company, do now proceed to give you such orders and instructions to be by you executed and put in force, as appear to us the most prudent and effectual for the good government and management of the Company's affairs in India.

1st. And first, after earnestly recommending to you the most perfect harmony amongst yourselves, as an object of the highest concern to the prosperity of the Company and the due execution of the great trust reposed in you, we direct that you fix your attention to the preservation of peace throughout India, and to the security of the possessions and revenues of the Company.

2. We direct, that you assemble in Council twice in every week, and that all the members be duly summoned, that the correspondence with the princes or country powers in India be carried by the Governor General only, but that all letters to be sent by him, be first approved in Council and that he lay before the Council, at their next meeting, all letters received by him in the course of such correspondence for their information. We likewise direct, that a copy of such parts of the country correspondence be communicated to our Board of Trade (to be constituted as hereinafter mentioned) as may in any way relate to the business of their department.

3. As it is now become unlawful for the Presidents and Councils of our other settlements to make peace or war with any Indian powers, or to

conclude any treaties with such powers, without your consent or approbation, except in cases of imminent necessity or where they shall have received special orders from the Company, we direct that you attentively view the general posture of our affairs in India respecting the country powers, their interests and probable connexions with each other, with us and other European nations, and that you take such measures as shall upon the whole be most conducive to our general interest, and in all your deliberations and resolutions you make the safety and prosperity of Bengal your principal object, and in all treaties with Indian powers or conventions with European nations, whereby our commerce can be affected we direct, that before any such treaties shall be agreed to by you, you take the opinion of our Board of Trade thereon in writing.

4. As the welfare of the Company must in a great measure depend on the proper management of their commercial affairs in Bengal and particularly on receiving well chosen investments, in order that those valuable purposes may be answered, we have judged it expedient to establish a Board of Trade; and thinking it incumbent on us to avail ourselves of the abilities and experience of our late Council we therefore direct, that Samuel Middleton, William Aldersey, John Reed, Philip Milner Dacres, Thomas Lane, James Lawrell, Henry Goodwin, John Graham, William Lambert, George Vansittart and Nicholas Grueber, being our eleven senior civil servants, be our Board of Trade, for managing, conducting and transacting our trade and commerce in Bengal, Behar and Orissa; and we hereby empower our said Board of Trade to appoint subordinate officers and agents under them from amongst our covenanted servants only, and to suspend or remove any such officers or agents when they shall find it necessary for our interest so to do. But in every appointment made by our Board of Trade we direct, that they do not require any person who shall be employed by the Governor General and Council in the collection or management of the revenues to execute any office under the said Board, it being our intention that none of our servants shall hold employments in those different departments at the same time.

5. We hereby appoint Samuel Middleton Esqr., President of our Board of Trade, and in case of his death, resignation or removal, the senior member in rank shall succeed.

6. That seven members of the Board do constantly reside at Calcutta; that four be appointed chiefs of subordinates or residents at the *au ngs* as the Board shall deem necessary, and that the appointment to each chiefship or residency be determined by a separate ballot of the members of the Board, but that no such chief or resident be permitted to remain at the same subordinate or *au ngs* for more than three years successively.

7. We order and direct our Board of Trade, in case any member of the said Board, being resident at Calcutta or at the *au ngs*, or chief of a subordinate factory, be at any time charged with negligence in the execution of the trust reposed in him or disobedience of orders, that they summon him to the Board and that he be made acquainted in writing with all accusations

preferred against him, that he have a reasonable time to make his defence and that if the charge be proved to their satisfaction they suspend him from the Company's service and if he shall be charged with any offence, cognizable by the Supreme Court of Judicature, that they cause him forthwith to be prosecuted for the same.

8. That in case of the death or removal of any member of the Board of Trade, the next senior servant upon the civil establishment do immediately succeed to a seat at that Board until our pleasure be known.

9. That in case of the death or removal of a chief of a subordinate factory or resident at any *amalgam* a successor be chosen by ballot by the members of our Board of Trade then resident at Calcutta; and in every case where the number of votes shall be found equal that the same be finally determined by drawing lots.

10. That all orders to the *amalgams*, or to subordinate factories, be signed by at least four members of the Board of Trade, residing at Calcutta

11. It is our order that our Board of Trade assemble twice in every week; that five members, and not a less number, do constitute a Board; that they regularly enter all their proceedings upon Consultation and all dissents, if such shall at any time be made by any member of the said Board, together with all letters received and sent in their department; that copies thereof signed by the members of the Board, be from time to time delivered to you, and by you transmitted to us and duplicates by the next conveyance as hath been usually practised by our President and Council respecting their Consultations and proceedings, and that if the Board of Trade shall at any time have particular information or remarks which they shall think necessary to communicate to us, the same be transmitted by you. And we further direct, that you transmit at the same time your sentiments at large upon the subject.

12. That in case of sickness of the President or of his being unavoidably prevented from attending at any meeting of the Board of Trade the senior member, who may then be present, do take the chair and that the Board do thereupon proceed to the dispatch of business.

13. That there be paid to the President of our Board of Trade £2,000 sterling, per annum, and to each of the other members of the said Board £1,500 per annum by quarterly payments; which sums are to be in lieu of commission upon the revenues and in full for salary, diet money and every emolument except such advantages as may arise from carrying on a legal trade, and the usual commission¹ to the President on coral and diamonds which we direct to be given to him.

14. We hereby direct, that you issue from time to time to our Board of Trade such sums of money as they shall require in order to make the usual advances to the *amalgams*, and for all necessary payments respecting the Company's investment or other disbursements in their department.

15. We direct, that, in the collection and management of the revenues, you continue such of our servants as are or have been employed with reputation in that department; and that you leave under the directions of

our Board of Trade those of our servants whom they may report to you as skilled in the provision of the Company's investment.,

16. When you take into consideration the salaries to be allowed to the officers employed in the Revenue Department we recommend the strictest economy and direct, that no greater salaries be established than the importance of their several stations may render necessary; which salaries are to be deemed provisional only, until they shall have received our approbation.

17. It is our intention to consign all our Bengal ships directly to you; but we shall make separate invoices of such parts of their cargoes as may be intended for sale and consign the same to our Board of Trade, who are hereby directed to apply the produce thereof towards the provision of our investment. Our orders for investments will be transmitted through your hands to our Board of Trade, and if at any time we should require an investment larger than your finances may enable them to furnish, you are to signify to the said Board of Trade what diminution you may deem necessary, and direct them to limit their purchases accordingly; but in all transactions of this nature we shall hold you responsible for any deviation from our orders.

18. We empower and direct you to enquire, from time to time, into the books, correspondence, accounts and proceedings of our Board of Trade in order that you may be fully informed of the measures taken and provisions made for lading our ships with proper cargoes for Europe and for completing such cargoes in due time, and that you communicate to us such observations as may occur to you thereon, and particularly if you should observe any misconduct in their department, that you inform us thereof by the earliest opportunity.

19. If any member of our Board of Trade shall appear to you guilty of embezzlement of the Company's money, or of oppression, or of any other breach of the trust reposed in him by us, we direct, that you forthwith cause him to be prosecuted for the same in the Supreme Court of Judicature, to be established under the said Act of Parliament.

20. If any of the Company's servants civil or military (except the members of our Board of Trade whom we do not make liable to your suspension) shall at any time be suspended by you from the execution of his office, or any vacancy shall happen by resignation, or death, it is our order and direction that the person next in rank, office or rotation be appointed to supply such vacancy in our civil or military service until our pleasure shall be known. We also further direct, that before the removal of any Company's servant from any office, the party be made acquainted, in writing, with the accusation preferred against him; that he be summoned to make his defence having a reasonable time allowed him for that purpose and that you proceed on all such occasions with the greatest tenderness and circumspection; and we further direct, that all such charges made before you against any of our servants in your department, with all proceedings thereon, be regularly entered upon your Consultations, and with them transmitted to us.

21. As it hath frequently happened in our intercourse with the native manufacturers of Bengal, that by reason of advances made to them at the beginning, they have been largely indebted to us at the close of the season it is our express direction that you afford effectual assistance to our Board of Trade, for obtaining full payment of all outstanding debts, due from the natives of Bengal to the Company, upon application made by our Board of Trade to you for that purpose.

22. And as the agents of foreign companies, free merchants, and others, may greatly embarrass our Board of Trade in the provision of our investments, by obtaining from the Company's manufacturers the goods manufactured by means of our advances, we direct, that you forthwith form such regulations as shall effectually guard our property against attempts of this nature.

23. We direct, that so soon as possible after the arrival of these our orders and instructions at Fort William, you summon Samuel Middleton, William Aldersey, John Reed, Philip Milner Dacres, Thomas Lane, James Lawrell, Henry Goodwin, John Graham, William Lambert, George Vansittart and Nicholas Grueber, being our eleven senior civil servants, to assemble within thirty days at Calcutta and that you deliver to them an authenticated copy of these our instructions; and it is our order that our said servants immediately upon receipt of such copy do forthwith proceed to carry into execution such parts as any ways relate to the establishment or conduct of a Board of Trade in Bengal.

24. Having thus communicated to you our ideas on the subject of the Company's investments under the direction of a Board of Trade, we most earnestly recommend, that you cordially unite with our servants in that department, and that you afford them every assistance in your power in order to enable them to answer the essential purposes intended by their appointment.

25. As we have never permitted our Governor and Council, or our Select Committee in Bengal, to admit Europeans into our service, unless by the appointment of the Court of Directors, nor to license free merchants, free mariners, or others to reside in India, we expressly direct, that you do not, on any account or under any pretence whatsoever, suffer any European to hold any post or to exercise any office in our service, civil or military, who shall not have been appointed or admitted into the Company's service by the express authority of the Court of Directors.

26. You will observe that by the beforementioned Act you are required to correspond with the Court of Directors from time to time, and constantly and diligently to transmit to them exact particulars of all advices or intelligence and of all transactions and matters that shall come to your knowledge relating to the government, commerce, revenues or interest of the Company and that the Court of Directors are required, within fourteen days after the receipt of any such letters or advices, to deliver in to the Lords of the Treasury a copy of such parts of the said letters or advices as shall any way relate to the management of the Company's revenues; and in

like manner, to deliver in to one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, a copy of all such parts of the said letters and advices as shall any way relate to their civil and military affairs and government. In order therefore to enable us to comply with the directions of the said Act we hereby order and direct, that you transmit to us, by every ship, an exact copy and a duplicate, by the next conveyance, of all such parts of your letters and advices as are by this law directed to be delivered to the Lords of the Treasury and to His Majesty's Secretary of State respectively; and that every copy and duplicate authenticated under the hands of the Governor General and Council.

27. In your correspondence with the Court of Directors it is our order, that the most regular and precise intelligence be from time to time communicated respecting the commerce, the number of forces, and the general strength of all foreign companies in India; and such intelligence must, so far as it is practicable, be continued by every British ship which shall sail for Europe.

28. Our military expenses at Bengal having increased to a degree which is become insupportable to us we, in an especial manner, enjoin you to make strict enquiry into the causes of such increase and particularly into the number of lascars, draught bullocks and boats kept for the use of the army, into contracts for supplying the troops with provisions and into all contingent charges, and we direct, that you forthwith retrench every superfluous charge and reduce every incidental expense to the lowest sum possible.

29. Having found it necessary to limit expressly the charges of erecting, repairing or compleating fortifications, barracks and all other public buildings in Bengal and its dependencies to the annual sum of one hundred thousand pounds sterling, and having given orders to our Governor and Council to that purpose, we hereby confirm our said orders, and direct, that you on no account or pretence whatever permit more than the said sum to be annually expended on the abovementioned services; and that the keeping of our fortifications and public works in a defensible state and condition be first considered in the expenditure thereof, until a further reduction can take place; and that a very exact and particular account of such expenditure be transmitted to us by every opportunity, with your sentiments and observations minutely on the state of the said works and fortifications.

30. As in pursuance of the Act of Parliament, a Supreme Court of Judicature, consisting of a Chief Justice and three other judges, is intended to be erected at Fort William in Bengal to exercise and perform all civil, criminal, admiralty and ecclesiastical jurisdiction at the said Presidency, we direct, that upon the establishment of such court you give all necessary assistance to the judges; that you provide a court-house, and proper offices for such clerks and ministerial officers as shall be appointed by them; and when the fees to be payable to the officers of the Supreme Court are fixed, we direct, that you cause tables thereof to be hung up in the most publick places, in the different languages of the country; that no person take

more than such fees upon pain of being dismissed; and you will take into consideration the amount of those fees in approving the salaries of the respective officers; and you are to transmit to us, so soon as possible, a particular account of such salaries and fees.

31. We direct, that you duly pay to the Governor General, to each of the Council, to the Chief Justice and to each of the judges the several salaries established by the said Act, observing at the same time that those ample salaries given to them by Parliament are to be in lieu of all fees of office, perquisites, emoluments, or advantages whatsoever, and therefore that we are not to be at any further expense on their account; and as the officers of the court are to be allowed such salaries as shall be approved by the Governor General and Council we recommend that strictest frugality in that respect and direct, that no greater allowances be made to any of them than their respective stations shall require.

32. But in consideration of our respect for Warren Hastings Esquire we direct, that he continue to enjoy our principal house together with the plate and furniture, both in town and country, rent free; and that our President of the Board of Trade shall, in like manner, have his choice of the next best house belonging to the Company, without the payment of any rent.

33. As the reduction of our debt on bond or interest notes in Bengal is of the utmost consequence to our prosperity we recommend it to you to pay every attention to this object, consistent with the safety and protection of our possessions and with the requisitions that shall be made to you for our investments.

34. The lands and farms of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa having been already let by our Governor and Council, and chiefly upon lease for a term of years, we have approved of the conduct of our said Governor and Council in letting them; and in case it should happen, that any lands or farms fall to the Company, before the expiration of the time for which they have been let, our order is, that you advertise for proposals, and proceed in the same manner, to relet such lands and farms, as hath heretofore been done, to the highest bidders who may be able to give good security for the performance of their engagements. And it is our order and direction, that no forbearance of rent be permitted when due, nor any diminution or abatement of revenue made, until, upon full representation to you, of all circumstances which may entitle any farmer to indulgence, the collectors of revenue shall have obtained your license for temporary forbearance or for the absolute remission of any part of our rents or revenues. And we also direct., that such license do specify the reason for every indulgence or remission, the name of the person to whom made, the gross amount of the farm rented and the specifick sum or sums received for, or in lieu of the whole; and it is our further pleasure that a regular account be kept of all sums finally remitted to renters, and that you transmit such account to us annually under the head of abatements to farmers, accompanied with the general rent-roll of the provinces, for the year in which abatements may be made.

35. We direct, that you immediately cause the strictest enquiry to be made into all oppressions which may have been committed either against the natives or Europeans, and into all abuses^d that may have prevailed in the collection of the revenues or any part of the civil government of the Presidency; and that you communicate to us all information which you may be able to obtain relative thereto or to any dissipation or embezzlement of the Company's money, and that you so soon as possible form such regulations, as shall seem most effectual for the remedy thereof, and for regulating the police of the country; paying the greatest attention therein to the protection and welfare of the natives, and to His Majesty's European subjects, as well as to the interest of the Company.

36. As all the Company's business which can conveniently be performed by contract, is so performed in Bengal, we have only to direct that all contracts, with the conditions, be publickly advertised, and sealed proposals received for the same; that every proposal be opened in Council and the preference given to the lowest, provided sufficient security shall be offered for performance, and that all such proposals, with all proceedings thereon, be entered in a book to be kept apart for that purpose and regularly transmitted to us.

37. In transacting the business of your department it is our order that you enter, with the utmost perspicuity and exactness, upon Consultations or minutes of Council all your proceedings whatsoever and all dissents if such should at any time be made by any member of our Board, together with all letters received and sent in the course of your correspondence; and that broken sets of all such proceedings, to the latest period possible, be transmitted to us by every ship, a complete set at the end of every year, and a duplicate by the next conveyance.

38. We direct, that all monies which may arise from our revenues, or be received by you on our account, be secured under three locks as usual, that the keys be kept by the Governor General and such other members of Council as you shall appoint who shall be a Committee of Treasury, that exact particulars of all monies paid into our treasury be first regularly entered on your Consultations, specifying from whom received and on what account; and that all issues of money from our said treasury be made by warrant under your hands, directed to the Committee of Treasury, and not otherwise.

That all applications for money be made to you in writing; and that all paymasters and other persons who may apply for money in advance do at the same time specify whether they have any of the Company's money in hand, and what amount, and also the particular services to which the money applied for is intended to be appropriated, and it is our express order, that no advance be made from the treasury upon any application which shall be deficient in any of the circumstances abovementioned, and we direct, that the Committee of Treasury prepare exact accounts monthly of all monies received and issued by the Board; that the monies in the treasury be viewed monthly by those members of the Council who may

not be of the Committee of Treasury; and that they compare the cash in the treasury with the balance of the said Committee's accounts and report their proceedings to the Council at large. And we also direct, that the said accounts and copies of all receipts and warrants be transmitted to us by every opportunity for our information.

39. It also our express direction, that you not only strictly attend to the standing orders of the Company communicated to their Presidency of Fort William, but to all such orders and instructions as the Court of Directors have transmitted to the Governor and Council or Select Committee of the said Presidency; and in an especial manner to those which any ways relate to forming proper statements of our revenues and to the keeping of our treasury accounts; and if any of our orders remain unexecuted you are to take care that the same be carried into execution in every instance wherein they have not been annulled by the beforementioned Act of Parliament, or superseded by our present orders and instructions.

40. Having taken into our most serious consideration the disputes which have arisen in India on account of the powers claimed by our Governor and military Commander-in-Chief, under their respective commissions, and the great injury occasioned to the service thereby, we have thought proper, in order to prevent the like inconveniences in future, to grant a Commander-in-Chief of our fortrees and garrison of Fort William and town of Calcutta; and we have also given a commission to Lieutenant General John Clavering constuting him Commander-in-Chief of all our forces in india*; and it is our pleasure that the particular powers vested in our said Governor General and military Commander-in-Chief respectively, under the authority of the commissions granted them by the Company, shall be exercised in the manner and to the extent hereinafter mentioned and not otherwise.

41. It is our order, and we hereby direct, that all military honors which have heretofore been paid to any of our Presidents and Governors of Fort William, excepting such as are reserved to His Majesty only, be continued to the Governor General. That the Governor General's guard shall attend him whenever he shall find it necessary to be absent from Fort William, and continue entirely under his command during such absence from the Presidency.

42. That all orders within the garrison of Fort William and town of Calcutta, except such as relate to regimental detail and to military discipline or to the defence of the fort, be given in the name of the Governor General who shall keep the keys of the fort and give the parole; but orders respecting regimental detail and discipline of the army in general, including the garrison of Fort William and troops stationed in the town of Calcutta, shall be given in the name of the military Commander-in-Chief, or in his nbsence in the name of the superior military officer doing duty at Fort William for the time being, who shall communicate all such orders to the Governor General by his aid-du-camp or other proper officer, for his

*Vide Appendices 2 and 3.

approbation before they be issued to the troops in the said garrison or in the town of Calcutta.

43. That in case Fort William or the town of Calcutta shall at any time be attacked or invested by an enemy the keys shall be delivered to the military Commander-in-Chief, and the separate military authority of our Governor General shall be entirely suspended and cease until such enemy shall be repelled, and no longer; and if the Governor General and military Commander-in-Chief shall, in either of the beforementioned cases, differ in opinion respecting the exact time when the exercise of the Governor General's power should be suspended, or resumed, the Governor General and Council shall finally decide thereupon.

44. That during such suspension of the Governor General's separate authority the executive military power shall devolve upon and be wholly vested in the military Commander-in-Chief or in his absence in the superior military officer in garrison, but subject at all times to the orders of the Governor General and Council.

45. That temporary leave of absence, in time of peace, be granted by the Governor General to officers doing duty in the garrison of Fort William or town of Calcutta, and to all other officers by the military Commander-in-Chief of the Company's forces in Bengal, Bahar and Orissa; but such leave of absence shall in no case extend beyond the limits of the said provinces.

46. That leave to resign the Company's service, or for officers to repair to any other settlement in India or to England for recovery of health be granted by the Governor General and Council only.

47. That the Town or Fort Major be nominated by the Governor General only; and that the Commander-in-Chief shall recommend to the Governor General and Council all officers for the staff and those who shall be appointed to fill all vacancies in the sepoy corps; and the Governor General and Council are hereby directed to pay a proper regard to the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief.

48. It is our express order that no commission to any field officer be granted by you, but in case of vacancy the officer next in rank shall supply the same provisionally until our pleasure be known, and we direct, that all commissions below the rank of field officers, be filled up and henceforth signed by the Governor General and Council in Bengal and by our Presidents and Councils at every other settlement.

49. That every resolution of the Governor General and Council respecting the promotion or dismissal of military officers be communicated to the Commander-in-Chief in writing and issued in general orders by the Governor General in the garrison of Fort William, and town of Calcutta and to the rest of the army, by the military Commander-in-Chief for the time being.

50. That all plans or regulations formed by the military Commander-in-Chief in time of peace respecting the disposition, cantonment or distribution of the Company's troops in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa

be approved by the Governor General and Council before they be carried into execution.

51. That if the Governor General and Council shall at any time think proper to issue orders under their hands, or by their Secretary, to any officer in the army, and thereby to suspend or supersede the specific commands of the Governor General or military Commander-in-Chief, such orders shall be implicitly obeyed.

52. That the keys of all the subordinate factories belonging to Fort William in Bengal, shall be kept by such persons as the Governor General and Council shall appoint ; but in all barracks or cantonments the keys shall be kept by the commanding officer of the troops.

53. That in case of the attack of any subordinate factory in Bengal, Bahar or Orissa the keys shall be delivered to the Commander-in-Chief or in his absence to the superior military officer present at such factory the mode of defence left entirely to his judgement and the whole executive military power vested in him till the enemy shall be repelled, subject, however, at all times to the control of the Governor General and Council or of the military Commander-in-Chief.

54. That the Commander-in-Chief or superior military officer in every district be expressly ordered by the Governor General and Council to comply with such requisitions as shall be made by the Company's chief civil servants for troops, in all cases where military assistance may be necessary; and in every such requisition the chief civil servant shall explain to the military officer, in writing, so far as may be practicable, the nature of the service to be performed, but mode of carrying it into execution, and the number of troops and quantity of stores requisite for that purpose, shall be determined by the Chief and Council in all subordinates where there shall be a Chief and Council; and in all subordinates where there shall not be an establishment of a Chief and Council the same shall be left to the judgement of the military officer, in whom the executive military power is vested.

55. That monthly returns of all the Company's troops in Bengal, Bahar and Orissa be regularly made, and immediate advice of all military occurrences transmitted to the Governor General and Council, and to the military Commander-in-Chief respectively, by all inferior commandants of those provinces; and that the Commander-in-Chief deliver or transmit returns, signed by himself, of all the forces under the Presidency of Bengal, to the Governor General and Council; and whenever he shall be employed on service at any other Presidency, he shall deliver returns of the troops of that respective Presidency to the President and Council under whom he shall then serve.

56. That the military Commander-in-Chief do not leave Bengal without the permission of the Governor General and Council, first signified to him in writing for that purpose, and that he be subject to their recall whenever they shall think proper.

57. That whenever the Commander-in-Chief of our troops in India shall be absent from Bengal, and on service at any other of our Presidencies

he shall have a seat as second of Council at every such Presidency but a vote only when military or political affairs shall be under consideration.

58. That copies of all returns made to the Governors of our respective settlements, attested by the superior military officer, shall be regularly transmitted by the said military officer to our Commander-in-Chief in India as well during his residence in the province of Bengal as at any other Presidency.

59. We have determined that commissions similar to that of the Governor General of Bengal shall be granted to the Governors of Fort St. George, Bombay and Fort Marlborough, constituting them Governors and Commanders-in-Chief of the castles, forts and towns respectively, where they have their usual residence; and that the powers vested in the said Governors by such commissions, shall be exercised in like manner, and to the same extent, relative to our military Commander-in-Chief of each respective settlement, as hath been directed to be exercised by the Governor General of Fort William in Bengal, and not otherwise; and that whenever the Commander-in-Chief of our troops in India shall be at Fort St. George, Bombay, or Fort Marlborough, or at any of their subordinate factories, he shall be subject to the control of the Governor and Council of any of those Presidencies respectively, in all cases wherein we have thought proper to subject him to the regulation and controul of the Governor General and Council of Fort William in Bengal.

60. We hereby direct, that the Commander-in-Chief of the Company's forces in India be permitted, when in Bengal, to enjoy the house in Calcutta, usually assigned to and occupied by the superior military officer of our troops in that province; and that when our Commander-in-Chief shall be sent upon the Company's service to any of our other Presidencies, an house, suitable to his rank, be likewise assigned for his use during his residence at such Presidency; and that there be paid to him the sum of six thousand pounds sterling per annum, in full for his services as Commander-in-Chief and in lieu of travelling charges, and of all other advantages and emoluments whatever, except his salary of ten thousand pounds per annum established by law, and ordered to be paid him as one of the Council at Fort William in Bengal.

61. It is our order, that a copy of the Company's commission to Warren Hastings Esqr. and to Lieutenant General John Clavering, and of these instructions, be forthwith given in general orders at Fort William, and that they be publicly read, once in every year at least, at the head of all bodies and detachments of troops serving under your command at Fort William and its subordinate factories and dependencies.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Edwd. Wheler/John Harrison/Jn.

Woodhouse/Samuel Peach/Fredk. Pigou/

London,
29 March 1774.

Daniel Wier/Wm. James/T.B. Rous/
George Cuming/Joseph Sparkes/P.N.
Lascelles/Chas. Boddam/Jn. Michie/
Chas. Chambers Junr./John Smith/
George Tatem.

10

LETTER DATED 30 MARCH 1774

Illicit trade suspected at Madeira—Dalrymple's collection of plans of ports in the East Indies—Resident at Murshidabad unnecessary—new treaty with the Nawab of Oudh—action in respect of Cooch Behar approved—Clavering to inspect troops of all the Presidencies—urgency of reform in coinage and currency—Monson to succeed Clavering in case of vacancy—payment of restitution money—remission of commission on revenues.

OUR Governor General and Council of Fort William in Bengal.

1. Although we have in our general instructions dated 29th instant pointed out the principal objects to be observed by you in entering upon the administration of our affairs in Bengal, we find it necessary to communicate to you such remarks and directions as occur to us and appear to be necessary in the present state of our affairs, and to require that in your General Letters you adopt the same division of the various subjects therein to be contained, which has been usually practised by our Presidents and Council of Fort William in Bengal.

2. You have been already advised of the intention of Government in sending the ships *Anson* and *Earl of Ashburham* to India; but as those ships, on their having performed the intended service, are designed by their owners to be disposed of India for their benefit, and as we have granted their request for so doing, you are to observe that it is upon the express conditions hereunder mentioned.

That the said ships shall not, upon any account or pretence whatever, be sold to the French, nor to the subjects of any other European nation, except the English, nor to any of the country powers, without your leave or permission or that of the Governor and Council, Chief, or Resident at such place where the said ships shall be sold; and that at whatever settlement they shall be disposed of, you or the Company's Governor and Council, Chief or Resident, are to take security of the person or persons who purchase them, to submit to these conditions; and as often as those ships shall be resold the like security is to be given by the purchasers, that they will submit to such conditions.

3. In the packets by those ships are enclosed copies of their charter-parties entered into between the proper officers of Government and their owners. And you are to take especial care that the stipulations therein,

respecting the disposition of the crews of those ships, are most punctually adhered to.

4. Having received information by a letter signed^f by a proprietor that considerable quantities of illicit^f trade were intended to be laden on our ships bound to Madeira this season, we forward a copy of the said letter for your notice, and direct, that you make the strictest enquiry into that matter, in regard to the ships bound to Bengal and that touched at Madeira in their way thither. And upon finding that such illicit trade has been shipt, you are to order the same to be seized for the Company's account, and to follow our former directions repeatedly given in regard thereto.

5. Mr. Alexander Dalrymple having lately published a collection of plans of ports etc. in the East Indies, with some nautical instructions and explanations, we herewith send several copies thereof that you may give such directions as you shall think proper to the commanders of our ships, for their making observations thereon, in order to improve the plans of such places as they may chance to visit, and correct the navigation they shall have pursued, and that such observations be transmitted to us.

6. We hope that the new arrangements in the Nabob's household have been so fully established as to remove every fear of his affairs returning to that state of confusion from which our President and Council have endeavored to retrieve them; and that it is become unnecessary to continue a Resident at the durbar, merely for the purpose of counteracting the intrigues of those who may have been abridged of their emoluments by the reduction of the Subah's expences. This however you will consider, and if you should still find it expedient to have a servant of the Company Resident at Moorshedabad, we enjoin you to avoid our incurring any greater expense on that account than is absolutely necessary for supporting the rank of such person as may be appointed to that station.

7. As we have thought fit to separate entirely the collections of our revenues from our Commercial Department, the views which our President and Council had in uniting the provision of the raw silk investment with the collection of our revenues, must be pursued by other means; we therefore refer to our Board of Trade to consider and adopt such mode for the encouragement and improvement of the raw silk investment, as may be most likely to answer that valuable purpose, and strictly enjoin you to yield them all proper assistance in the prosecution of this important branch of our commerce.

8. The Nabob Mebreck Ul Dowlah having applied through Munny Begum for a new treaty, we direct that you prepare such treaty and thereby fix the Nabob's stipend at the sum specified in his request.

9. Although we shall by no means depart from the rule laid down, for confining our view to our present possessions, yet as the peace and security of them appears to have been the chief object of our President and Council in their agreeing to the proposals of Nazir Deo, minister to the young Rajah of Coch Bahar, we approve of the measures they have taken to drive the Boutanners from the Rajah's country¹, and consider the advan-

tages proposed to the Company, as an equivalent only for the charges we may incur in assisting him. At the same time we are pleased with the attention our President and Council have paid to our declared sentiments respecting new acquisitions, in referring to us the ratification of the treaty they thought it advisable to make with the Rajah, upon their affording the assistance he desired; but as you have the local means of enquiring how far such an alliance may be necessary we leave this matter to your final determination, and permit you to rectify or reject the said treaty as you shall find most for the interest of the Company.

10. We find, by the opinions of the most eminent lawyers in the kingdom, that the arrear due from the Committee or Society of Trade is justly chargeable with interest, and that such interest ought to be claimed from the time when the duties became payable. We herewith transmit you copies of the said opinions together with an account of the interest to be demanded; and direct, that if the said Committee of Society shall not give security to pay the whole amount within twelve months, you proceed to recover the same by instituting a suit in the Supreme Court of Judicature, against all parties concerned in the payment of those duties to the Company.

11. We have considered the application made by Mr. Peacock for an allowance for the time he was employed in the Morung country^a, and must observe, that as upon the proffer he made of his services in the year 1769, we permitted him to proceed to India with no other view of recompense than what he might be entitled to from the success of his undertaking and as this appears to have been the condition on which he proceeded into the Morung country for the purpose of procuring timbers for the Company's use, we cannot consider his plea as a matter of right. But as we find that the failure of his undertaking was not owing to any neglect on his part, we are willing to grant him some compensation for his time and trouble; you will therefore consider the future of his services and make him such allowance as you shall think just and reasonable.

12. We are sorry to find upon the application of Mr. Lushington and Mr. Bateman, to be reimbursed the sums expended on brick houses and on offices for conducting the business of the Department that our President and Council have so far acquiesced in their request for the Company to purchase those buildings as to grant them interest notes for the amount, upon condition of their being void in case we should disapprove of the purchase.

13. And here we must observe that the practice of erecting houses for the habitation of the collectors of the revenues, which has been pleaded in excuse for the indulgence shewn Mr. Lushington, renders it more necessary for us to adhere strictly to our orders prohibiting all charges for increase of buildings, especially as the works which are immediately and essentially necessary for the security of our possessions in Bengal, may employ the whole sum to which we have restricted all expences of this kind.

14. We are further to remark, that the pleas which have been offered for the Company's reimbursing the loss their servants might sustain by erecting house for their own convenience or ostentation are, the more extraordinary as the allowances given to the collectors were to be in full for every charge respecting such stations; and as those servants could not be ignorant of our orders, that no buildings should be undertaken without leave, we cannot but consider their application, for the Company to purchase the houses erected by them, as an attempt to defeat the ends purposed by such restriction.

15. We must here add, that besides the reasons we have to avoid as much as possible, all expenses for private buildings, those in question can no longer be deemed necessary for conducting the business of the collections since the lands being now let to farm the collectors will not have occasion for other than temporary habitations.

16. Upon the whole we entirely disapprove of the purchases before-mentioned, and hereby direct, that, you require Mr. Lushington and Mr. Bateman to deliver up the interest notes, given them on that account, to be cancelled by you. And as Mr. Bateman, besides the interest note given him, has received from the public treasury towards the cost of his house the sum of Rs. 3500 you are likewise to require him forthwith to repay the same.

17. As we remark in Mr. Lushington's address to our Committee of Revenue, requesting them to purchase his house at Houghley, that he avows one cause of his building it to have been for supporting appearances we cannot but express our concern that such a motive should have had any influence on his conduct; and we take this occasion most earnestly to recommend to you discourage, as much as possible, that disposition to parade and extravagance which has so long prevailed amongst the Company's servants in Bengal.

18. We direct in case any of our houses, except those occupied by the Governor, the Commander-in-Chief and the President of the Board of Trade, can be made fit and commodious for the office of *Khalasa*, or the revenue office, at a moderate expense, that they be appropriated to that use instead of the house which is now hired for that purpose.

19. The friends of Mr. James Bonwicke, Deputy Custom Master at your Presidency, having represented to us that the allowances assigned him for his services in that office are almost absorbed in the payment of his expence for house rent we therefore direct in case the house in the old Fort, usually assigned to the office of Deputy Custom Maste, is not at this time inhabited by him, that Mr. Bonwicke be forthwith put in possession thereof, and permitted to occupy the same rent free.

20. Messrs. Charles Goring and Isaac Sage who came to England with your permission for the recovery of their healths, having represented that the same is re-established, we have granted their request for returning to their stations in our civil service at your Presidency; Mr. Goring to rank next below Mr. Thomas Sheeles, and Mr. Sage next before Mr. Simeon Droz.

21. Upon a very particular recommendation in favor of Mr. Henry Ramus, appointed a writer at Fort St. George in 1770, we have removed him from the said Presidency to Bengal and hereby direct that he take his rank on your list of covenant servants immediately before William Wodsworth.

22. We have also been induced to remove Mr. Joseph Dixon, a writer on the Fort St. George establishment of 1770, from that Presidency to Bengal, and stationed him as youngest of the writers arrived there in the same year, and next under John Covert.

23. We have, as a grateful testimony of our regard to the memory of Brigadier General Wedderburn, our late Commander-in-Chief at Bombay who unfortunately fell on the Broach expedition,³ appointed Mr. John Mackenzie (the late General's secretary) a factor on your establishment to take rank next under Mr. Charles Crofts.

24. Having received very ample certificates of the abilities of Mr. William Paxton as an Assay Master, we have appointed him to serve us in that capacity at your Presidency with the salary and allowance of a fact or and the usual gratuity of eighty pounds per annum as Assay Master. He is to rank as the youngest factor on his arrival and at no time to rise to a superior station in our service; and as the above appointment will occasion the removal of Mr. Samuel Touchett from the office of Assay Master, we recommend it to you to promote him to the first employ suitable to his station, that shall become vacant after Mr. Paxton's arrival in Bengal.

25. As we did not mean to impeach the abilities or integrity of Mr. John Rosewell, our Naval Storekeeper, by the appointment of Mr. Page Keble to that office, we direct that on a future vacancy you make such provision for him as may prevent his being a sufferer by his removal from the office of Naval Storekeeper.

26. As an acknowledgment of the high regard we entertain of the services of Sir Eyre Coote, we have appointed Mr. Primrose Thomson, who was one of the General's staff in his last voyage to India, to be captain of infantry on your establishment, and to rank as such from the day of the arrival in Bengal of the last of the Company's ships bound thither this season.

27. As we are desirous that the East India Company should avail themselves of the military abilities of General Clavering, we direct that whenever that gentleman can be spared from the essential services of our affairs in Bengal he be permitted, by you, to proceed to our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay, to review our troops and to make a strict examination into the state of our army there, and also to assist our Presidents and Councils in forming such regulations as may be necessary for rendering our forces as respectable as may be at those settlements.

28. It is our order that the pay of General Clavering, as Commander-in-Chief of our forces in India, be issued from our Bengal treasury only; and that it commence from the day of the General's arrival at any of our settlements in India.

29. Captain Christian Knudson, whom you permitted to resign and proceed to Europe to settle his concerns and to re-establish his health, has produced to us your certificate of his good behaviour, and we have permitted him to return to his duty without prejudice to his rank.

30. We have also permitted Lieutt. Ewen Baillie, who came to England with your license, to return to his duty in your military without prejudice to his rank.

31. Upon considering the case of Capt. Charles Duffin, who is permitted to return to Bengal, it appears to us that the uncommon length of the *Falmouth's* voyage and her unfortunate shipwreck has occasioned him to be materially injured in the rank we assigned him in 1765, by the promotion of several persons in Bengal, and even by some after his arrival in India; we therefore deem him entitled to relief from the hardships he has experienced and direct that Captain Duffin do rank on your establishment, pursuant to his original appointment as a cadet, next under Capt. William Davies.

32. As it appeared to us, upon considering the case of Lieutenant Archibald Hooke, that except on the occasions which brought on the two courts martial held on him, he bore an undeniable character as an officer, and that the charges brought against him were not of so heavy a nature as to deprive him of a conditional mitigation of the censure passed upon him, we have agreed to restore him to his rank in our military service, upon making such concession, in excuse of his late behaviour, as shall be satisfactory to our President Mr. Hastings.

33. For determining the disputes concerning the rank of the corps of engineers, on all duties where different corps are concerned, we have thought proper to order that in future our corps of engineers shall have rank in our army agreeable to the dates of their commissions, in the same manner as the corps of engineers in His Majesty's service with the officers of His Majesty's army, but they are to rise only in their own corps.

34. Upon consulting with Lieutt. Col. Campbell on the means of putting the manufacture of gunpowder on the best footing, we have thought it necessary to recommend it to you to appoint Mr. Robt. Stewart, Assistant Engineer, to superintend your powder works, and to give him charge of that office, now held by Mr. Smith, as soon as may be after the receipt hereof, the latter continuing a deputy, as formerly, under Mr. Walton.

35. It is our express order, that no promotion be made of any military officer whatever, until there shall be a vacancy in the establishment of officers, as settled by our General Letters, dated 16th March 1768, the 23rd March 1770 and 10th April 1771.

36. Although we should admit that it would have been an hardship on Lieutenant Colonel Wilding to be obliged to support the character of a field officer with the pay and *batta* of captain only, to which he is restricted by our orders, we must suspend our opinion of the indulgence which has been shewn him in giving him the pay and *batta* of lieutenant colonel while

he commanded at Chunargur, until we shall be satisfied that there was no officer of superior rank to him at the time he was appointed to that post who could, with propriety, take the command of it; you are therefore to give us full information in this respect.

37. And as the circumstances on which the like indulgence has been shewn Lieut. Colonel Goddard, are said to be similar to those of Colonel Wilding, we can only observe, that our approval or censure of that indulgence will depend on the propriety or irregularity of his being ordered to a command which might render an extra allowance necessary. And we therefore expect that you give us the like information respecting Lieutenant Colonel Goddard's appointment for our ultimate decision.

38. It being of the greatest importance to the welfare of our settlements in India, as well as the crews of our ships, that they should be supplied with able and experienced surgeons, we have for a few years past established here a board of gentlemen of the faculty, of known ability in their professions, as well in physick as surgery, for examining all the surgeons appointed from hence, either for our settlements or ships.

39. And that our service may be benefitted as much as possible by this regulation we direct that when vacancies of surgeons happen in your hospitals, or in the regiments, a preference in the choice of successors be always given to such who have the Company's licence for residing in India and who have passed their examination here by the Board above-mentioned; and that if possible none other be employed by you; and in order that you may never be in want of persons properly qualified you will advise us how many may be necessary to be sent to you every year.

40. As it is highly probable that there are many British subjects in Bengal without license from the Company, whose immediate removal might involve them in great difficulties, we therefore direct that you forthwith transmit to us a compleat list of such unlicensed persons as were resident there before the 1st January 1774, specifying the times of their arrival and their respective occupations, and also of all free merchants and all free mariners whose licenses are expired; and as we are determined that no British subject shall remain at any of our settlements without our express permission, it is our further direction that every such subject, who shall be found in Bengal without license, and not make it appear to your satisfaction that he was resident there [or] at some of our Presidencies in India before the 1st January 1774, be sent to Europe within the time limited, and in the manner authorized by the late Act of Parliament⁴; and this we make a standing order to be strictly obeyed by you in all times to come.

41. And as we have lately thought fit to make alterations in the covenants to be executed by free merchants and free mariners, and have transmitted sundry covenants so altered to Bengal to be executed by persons resident there, we hereby direct that, every free merchant or free mariner, who shall apply to you within six months after the expiration of his present covenants and signify his desire of executing the new covenants, be permitted so to do, and to remain in India for five years, provided his former

behaviour shall have been conformable to the tenor of his former covenants with the Company; but if any free merchant or free mariner, resident in Bengal, shall refuse or neglect to apply to you, and to execute the said covenants, then our express order is that, every such person be sent home in the manner we have before directed, concerning persons found in India without the Company's license.

42. You will observe by the list enclosed, that we have permitted several persons to proceed to Bengal this season for various purposes, under express limitations in point of time; and our order is, that every such person be obliged to leave India at the expiration of the term respectively for which our license has been obtained, unless, upon application to us, we should think proper to renew our indulgence and permit any such person to remain in India beyond the period for which such license is granted.

43. The names of the several persons whom we have permitted to proceed to India on the ships *Anson* and *Ashburnham*, as the families and suites of General Clavering, Colonel Monson and Mr. Francis, and of the Chief Justice and the Puisne Justices, and also such as proceed in the character of clerks and ministerial officers of the courts of judicature, established by the late Act of Parliament, will appear by the lists enclosed in the packets. By the same means you will be informed of such other persons, who at present are engaged as commanders and officers of the above ships, and who are permitted to remain in India under our license. But should any persons, besides those who are described in the said lists, find their way to India as passengers on board those ships, or in any capacity whatever, we do most positively order and direct that all such persons be forthwith required to return to England.

44. We have thought it necessary to come to a resolution, that no barristers at law be permitted to proceed to the East Indies this season.

45. We observe with great satisfaction the progress made by the Board of Inspection in reforming the hospital expenses. We approve the regulations formed for that purpose, and have only to add, that it is our pleasure that the head surgeon be no longer permitted to have any emolument arising from being concerned in dieting the patients. It is not only his duty to attend to the health of the men, but it ought to be his interest to have as few as possible in the hospital, which cannot be the case so long as he is allowed to diet them by contract; we therefore direct that, you forthwith separate the occupations of surgeon and contractor and doubt not but this regulation will be attended with every good consequence which we hope for from the measure.

46. There is not any object before you which more immediately claims your attention than the state of the coinage and currency of Bengal.

47. By the regulations of 1771, the fall of *batta* upon the *sicca* rupee is discontinued. By this measure our troops have already experienced a real grievance, because *sicca* rupees are worth at market very little more than *sunaut* rupees of full weight, and can only be passed at their nominal value by means of arbitrary power, which it is our earnest desire to avoid.

48. The evil of this regulation is not confined to the troops only. In letting the lands of our provinces, we cannot suppose that the alteration of the nominal value of the coin was at all attended to. Hence the loss upon the revenue is alarming. The rents are ascertained in *sicca* rupees but the amount of the revenues, paid specifically in that coin, will be nearly 13 lacks per annum less than if paid in *sunaut* rupees.

49. We see no injustice in continuing to receive our revenues in the specific coin in which they have been usually paid. Unless therefore the tenants had given an advanced price for the lands, equal to the nominal advance put upon the coin, we must be of opinion that such rupees as are already coined should be suffered to depreciate to the nominal value of *sunauts*; and that in all future coinage the nominal value of new rupees should be no more than that of *sunaut* rupees.

50. Upon the whole as we wish such a reform to be made in the coinage of Bengal as may put all persons upon an equal footing, leave no room for fraud, and as little as possible to be effected by power, we earnestly recommend to you that, after availing yourselves of every light thrown upon the subject by the records of the Company, and by a treatise compiled for our use by Sir James Steuart, herewith transmitted, and also of the assistance of the most experienced persons in the provinces, you endeavor to establish an equitable rupee with such legal denomination only as shall serve for the purposes abovementioned.

51. We send in these ships packets an account of the weights and report from the Tower of London⁵, of gold mohurs, *sicca* rupees and Arcot rupees sent from Bengal, with observations thereon for your information and guidance.

52. We have advanced to Philip Francis Esqr., one of the Council proceeding to your Presidency, the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds to be repaid into your treasury agreeable to the tenor of his bond, which is transmitted to you by this conveyance.

53. Lieutenant Thomas Pryce, who was permitted to return to his rank on your establishment as advised in our General Letter, dated the 2nd February last, took his passage on the *Thames* by the way of Bombay; and we have lent him fifty pounds which is to be repaid out of his allowance, agreeable to the tenor of the bond enclosed in the *Earl of Ashburnham's* packet.

54. Having repeatedly urged our servants at Fort William to make every possible reduction in the military expenses of that Presidency, we cannot see without concern that a new corps of light infantry has been lately raised and established in Bengal. However, as we are advised that this measure was necessary for the better protecting the districts of Rajah-maul and Boglepoor from the depredation of the banditti who inhabit the neighbouring mountains, and that it could be no addition to the Bengal establishment, in the manner this corps was to be included in the new arrangement, we acquiesce therein; but at the same time we renew our injunctions that you fix your attention to the retrenching of all such military

expenses as will admit of a reduction without danger to the safety of our possessions.

55. We approve the regard which has been shewn to the merit of Capt. Robert Brooke in giving him the command of the abovementioned troops ; and from his experience and activity are led to hope that the ends for which it was raised will be fully answered under his discipline and conduct.

56. We hereby direct that the attornies of Col. Munro be permitted to pay into our cash the sum of £4000 for bills upon us, which is to be included in the sum appropriated to our covenanted servants and military officers, and as such to make a part of your next draughts.

57. We direct that from the sum of £25000, which you are permitted to draw upon us for the purposes mentioned in our letter dated the 10th of December last, you appropriated the sum of £4000 for bills to be granted on us in favor of John Michie Esqr. on his attornies paying the value thereof into our cash.

58. From the very particular hardship of the case of Capt. James Sellick, who is disordered in his senses, and the great distress the mother of Lieut. George Russell labours under, we find ourselves under the necessity of indulging the attornies of the former with the value of £1000, and the latter with the amount of £500 for bills upon us, payable to their respective orders, to be allowed as part of the abovementioned sum of £25000, the amount of the value of those bills being first severally received into our treasury; and from the said sum and on the like terms, at the particular instances of the friends of Mr. John Pritchard, late a free merchant at your Presidency, and of Lieut. Rowland Catlin, you are also to pass bills in their favor upon us for the value of £500 each.

59. And in order to alleviate, in some measure, the hardships the family of the widow Sarah Blomer experience, we direct that the sum of £1500, part of £3000, either paid into our treasury by Messrs. Samuel Middleton and John Graham, or continuing in their hands, be in either case received into our cash, and that you pass your draughts on us for the said sum of £1500, which you are to take and allow as a portion of the abovementioned sum of £25000, directed to be applied for remittances in favor of deceased and other persons.

60. The General Court having, on the 11th day of February 1774, resolved by ballot, "That it be recommended to the Court of Directors, to nominate the Hon'ble Colonel George Monson to succeed Lieut. General John Clavering, to the Post of Commander in Chief in India, immediately on the accession of the said Lieut. General Clavering to the Office of Governor General of the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa, by which accession the Post of Commander in Chief in India will become vacant, or in case of vacancy of the Post of Commander in Chief in India by any other means, to nominate the said Colonel George Monson to succeed to the said command, with such restrictions respecting the said appointment as Lieut. General Clavering is, or shall be laid under."

61. It is therefore our pleasure in case of the death, promotion or removal of Lieutenant General John Clavering from the post of Commander-in-Chief of our troops in India, that the Honble. George Monson do immediately succeed to the said post of Commander-in-Chief; that he has the pay annexed to that office and the same advantages, respecting an house for his residence at Calcutta or at any of our other Presidencies, which are directed to be enjoyed by our Commander-in-Chief in the 60th paragraph of our instructions dated the 29 day of March 1774.

62. The claimants of the restitution granted by Meer Jaffier in 1763, having again applied to us, we direct that no unnecessary delay be made in discharging the sums due to them, but that so soon as the amount of the debts paid to Bolackidass, being C. Rs. 3,67,000, the remainder of that due from the Nabob to Juggat Seat, being about *Sa.* Rs. 4,00,000, the balance of donation paid to the army, being *Sa.* Rs. 2,75,000, and the navy donation being 12,50,000, shall have been deducted from the savings made from the Nabob's annual allowance, that you forthwith appropriate all further savings to the payment of the remainder of the restitution, and the donation of two lacks of rupees to Colonel Munro in such proportions as their respective claims bear to each other.

63. Mr. James Amyatt, as heir to the late Mr. Peter Amyatt, applied to us for the payment of Rs. 16,730, said to have been advanced by Ramnarrain at Patna in the year 1760, for the payment of the Nabob's troops; but upon examining the Consultations, and conferring with Mr. Verelst and General Carnac upon the subject, it appeared that Mr. Amyatt had been fully reimbursed the sums he advanced on the above account, and therefore we could not comply with Mr. James Amyatt's request. We now acquaint you therewith, that you may not pay any demand on this account; and we direct that enquiry be made after the bond which was given by the Nabob's officer to Mr. Peter Amyatt for Rs. 50,000, which bond, as we are informed, remains still in the hands of Mr. Amyatt's attornies uncanceled notwithstanding he owns that the full money has been paid according to the tenor of the obligations therein contained, and the Consultations so fully verify the same by specifying the interest notes which were granted in discharge of that obligation.

64. The great importance of our revenue accounts and the expediency of the most accurate information that can be transmitted to us, relative thereto, are matters that we have so frequently dwelt upon that it is with singular pleasure we find the last advices, from your Presidency, have furnished us with a clearer state of the revenues of the Bengal Province than had been hitherto sent us, and we are glad to give this testimony to the ability and assiduity of Mr. Charles Croftes, who has so well exerted himself in this department.

65. On inspecting the several books that contain the transactions of that part of our revenues, the several accounts seem to be arranged with great propriety and perspicuity in the general state thereof, set forth in the Muxadavad Journal and Ledger ending April 1772, received per *Prince*

of *Wales*, and which are accompanied by the separate accounts received from the Supravisors which state with great precision the several charges. We therefore with pleasure express our approbation of the punctuality of Mr. Croftes in forwarding these last to us, as we are sensible the adjustments of these must have been attended with considerable trouble and as they are the first accounts of the kind that we have received from any of the districts.

66. The abstract of the settlement of the revenues the [of] the Bengal Province for the year 1773, and the statement of demands, receipts and balances of the same, received per *Hector*, exhibit in a clear and concise manner the state of these revenues, and appear to be drawn up with that perspicuity and accuracy that merit the commendation we have already given Mr. Croftes as a careful and able accountant; we therefore in a particular manner recommend him to your favorable attention.

67. It is with great concern we find that, notwithstanding all our orders, we have not been able to prevent an undue application of the commission granted upon the revenues by our President and Council of Bengal.

68. When we restored, or acquiesced in the restoration of sundry officers, who had been concerned in the mutiny of 1766, it was under the express limitation of their being confined to captain's pay and emoluments until the number of field officers should be reduced to the fixed establishment, which was three colonels of infantry including the Commander-in-Chief, eight lieutenant colonels and eleven majors. How then our President and Council could permit those officers who were supernumerary to share in the commission upon the revenues, before they succeed to the pay annexed to their station, we are at a loss to conceive.

69. It is however our express direction that the commission upon the revenues, ordered to be paid to field officers, be in future confined to the above establishment, vizt. to three colonels, eight lieutenant colonels and eleven majors beginning with the eldest colonel, lieutenant colonel and major.

70. As it is not our intention to diminish the allowances made to our field officers, we direct that you continue to divide amongst them, as usual, the amount of twenty four shares and one fourth of a commission of two and one half per cent upon the revenues in the proportions established by our General Letter of 23rd March 1770, para. 182; and that you remit annually to Bombay the sum of Ct. Rs. 1,33,333, to be divided amongst our civil and military servants at that settlement, in the specifick proportions directed by our General Letter to Bombay, dated 6th April 1770, para. 150.

71. The shares of commission to be received by our field officers being in the proportions assigned them by our letter of the 23rd March 1770, you are to continue, until further orders, to draw a commission of two and one half per cent on the Bengal revenues conformably to directions we have given in this respect. But as we find many deviations, from our intention and orders, in the mode which has been pursued in drawing

such commission, we take this occasion to particularize the several irregularities which appear therein.

72. Instead of the specifick amount of the tribute, stipends and allowances which we have directed to be deducted from the *Dewanee* revenues, it appears that the sums only which have been paid out of our treasury on those accounts, are drawn from those revenues, and the *jaghire* to Lord Clive is not in any manner deducted from the revenue of the Calcutta *purgunnahs*.

73. We also remark that in the account commission, from September 1770 to August 1772, several sums are improperly inserted as additional to the revenues collected from Bengal and Bahar under the heads of *tuckary*, *chelats* and *pooshbundy*, which being only repayments for advances on those accounts, can in no wise be considered as making any part of the *Dewanee* revenues.

74. We observe likewise that the sum of rupees 32,41,860 has been drawn from the Bengal revenues instead of the specifick amount of 36 lacks directed in our letter of 10th April 1771. But as by the Moorshedabad revenue books, received since the date of those orders, we find that the total sum stipulated for the Nabob's stipend was, at that period, reduced to the amount inserted in the account commission, we shall admit the same and consider it as the sum to be deducted from the *Dewanee* revenues.

75. When we gave orders, in our letter of April 1771, for the reduction of the Nabob's stipend and of the ministers' allowances, we particularly signified our intention that such reduction should not increase the commission on the revenues allowed to the Company's servants, but as that commission appears to have been materially affected by the method hitherto pursued, we cannot avoid renewing our orders on this subject.

76. To remedy therefore in future the irregularities here pointed out and to settle the whole on a plan not only conformable to our first ideas but also more impartial and equitable to the persons receiving emolument from the commission, we direct that, in drawing out the accounts of commission, the following tribute, stipends and allowances be invariably charged on the *Dewanee* revenues.

The King	26,00,000
Nabob	32,41,860
Mahomed Reza Cawn	9,00,000
Rajah Dolubram	2,00,000
Payment to Juggatseat	1,05,000
Ahteram O Dowla	90,625
Hussein Cawn	56,250
	<hr/>
<i>Sicca rupees</i>	71,93,735

77. We accordingly direct that the above sum, of *Sa. Rs.* 71,93,735, be deducted from the annual collections made on the *Dewanee* revenues and that the sum of *C. Rs.* 2,58,631 being the amount of Lord Clive's

jaghire, be deducted from the Calcutta *purgunnahs*, over and above the ordinary charges of collection, to be taken from the receipts of these lands and from the receipts of the three provinces of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, and that the commission of 2½ per cent be in future drawn on the collective amount of such nett revenues.

78. We herewith transmit copy of our Standing Council's opinion, in answer to your Judge Advocate's representation, on some doubts which arose in the execution of his office.

79. We send in these ships packets, for your use, some of the Acts of Parliament passed last session for establishing certain regulations for the better management of the affairs of the East India Company as well in India as in Europe.

80. You will herewith receive a copy of His Majesty's royal charter for establishing the several courts of judicature in Bengal, described in our general instructions to you.

81. We send you herewith copies of a deed of covenants entered into between the Company and Mr. David Trinder and his wife, by which it appears that there are in our treasury at Fort William Rs. 21339-2-3, belonging to the estate of Henry Summers, deceased, and secured by the Company's bond. This sum Mr. Trinder and his wife are entitled to receive as executors of Mr. Summers; and they have, by the present deed, assigned the same to the Company, in trust, to discharge the sum of £600 due from him to the Company and secured by his bond, and to pay the surplus to him in England. We therefore desire you will transmit to us an account of what money is now in our treasury, on account of the estate of Henry Summers; and if any such bond has been issued, it is to be delivered up by virtue of this assignment, and the money to be carried to our credit and retained to the use of the Company.

82. The suit instituted by Mr. Cooke and the other claimants on the Restitution Fund to the European Sufferers in 1756, has been brought to a hearing in the Court of Chancery some time ago, and an account is directed to be taken, before a master, of the 50 lacks of rupees agreed to be paid by the Nabob for this restitution, and in what manner the same has been distributed and paid; upon this occasion we find ourselves greatly at a loss to furnish such accounts as are required on the part of the Company, and also in a total want of vouchers to verify the same.

83. By the accounts hitherto transmitted it appears that of the commission agreed to be paid to Roydoolub, upon the whole donation for restitution, there hath been paid him the sum of C. Rs. 6,48,340-14, the proportion whereof to the Fund to European Sufferers appears to be Rs. 69,469-9, but for this payment we have no vouchers nor the least knowledge of what vouchers can be produced, though in our General Letter of the 22nd February 1764, we desired to be informed whether the whole of Roydoolub's commission had been paid, *and whether he had given any and what receipt for it*. We therefore desire you will give us full information of the exact sum hitherto paid to Roydoolub, and transmit to us

authenticated copies of all such receipts or vouchers as you have in your custody, of such payments.

84. Another article in which the accounts sent us are wholly defective, is the loss on the sale of the jewels and cloth, after deducting the profit on the sale of gold received from the Nabob and the several charges and expences attending the collection of the restitution; the whole amount of these articles, according to the accounts we have received, is Rs. 2,35,634-11-6, of which the sum of Rs. 51,901-14-9 is apportioned to the Fund to European Sufferers, but of these sums we have only the gross amount set down in a book entitled Bengal Restitution Accounts Journal and Ledger from 9th January 1761 to 30th September 1761, which book is signed by Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Culling Smith; but this will not be sufficient evidence to satisfy the Court of Chancery, and therefore we desire you will not fail to send us a particular account of what these several sums are composed of, whether such accounts were examined and passed by the Commissioners of Restitution, and the best evidence that can be procured in justification of the payments, and authenticated copies of the vouchers and receipts.

85. It appears, by the account transmitted to us of gross sums paid, that Rs. 75,568-5-5 more than the whole amount of the established claims to European Sufferers, and the 20 per cent thereon, have been issued and paid. It is yet unaccounted for to us, why this sum was issued, although in our beforementioned letter of February 1764, and in our letter of the 15th February 1765, we required an explanation on this head; and it cannot be expected such a sum can be allowed to the Company, if they are unable to shew on what account and by what authority it was paid, and how the payment is authenticated.

86. With respect to the dividends paid upon the established claims to European Sufferers, and the 20 per cent thereon, it will be necessary to produce before the master a copy of the restitution book signed by the sufferers on receiving their dividends, duly authenticated; the duplicates transmitted to us are only copies not so much as signed by the Governor and Council, and as we imagine the originals cannot be spared we desire you will not fail to send us, by the first conveyance, an exact copy of that book, carefully examined and authenticated under the Company's seal, as all other accounts and papers to be transmitted to us must be.

87. We refer you to our said General Letters of the 22nd February 1764, and the 15th February 1765, upon this head, the substance of which has been hitherto most imperfectly answered.

88. Messrs. Verelst, Becher, Smith, Alexander, Floyer, Russell and Campbell, late members of our Council in Bengal, have represented to us that they have had actions brought against them by Messrs. Nicol and Davie, and having been advised to send commissions abroad for the examination of witnesses they have nominated Messrs. Edward Baber, William Harwood, Robert Patton and Charles Sealy as Commissioners to execute the same. Being desirous therefore of giving them the necessary assistance,

we recommend it to your very particular attention to afford the said Commissioners all the assistance in your power to enable them to execute their trust with the greatest dispatch, not only that the rendering justice as speedily as possible to the parties concerned may be effected but that the maintenance of the Company's rights, derived from acts of the legislature and royal charter. over British subjects illegally trading in India, may be vigorously and effectually asserted and preserved.

89. You will receive, a number in the packet, our Auditor's letter containing his remarks on the books and accounts of Fort William and its subordinates, which having been approved by us, you will pay the same attention thereto as if they had been inserted in our present address.

90. In our Auditor's remarks on the several matters that require inspection and reform, we have noticed the state of the balances that appear outstanding from the officers in your different departments and particularly your Import Warehousekeeper, who at the end of each year has had a large sum in his hands.

91. Upon enquiry into this circumstance, we find it arises from the disproportion his payments bear to his receipts, which last are by monthly sums received by him for sales to a very considerable amount, whereas his payments on such account into the treasury are made but three or four times in the year (and these very short of his receipts) to which are only to be added the monthly charges of his employ. The latest payment that appears to have been made by him was in November 1771, which left a balance with him of current rupees 6,70,505, and which continued to accumulate by subsequent receipts for sales to the present enormous balance of current rupees 8,62,059, which stands on his last books received to April 1772.

92. We cannot but testify our surprize at the conduct of our servants in this respect, and we do therefore strictly enjoin you to call upon the Import Warehousekeeper to pay into our treasury all such monies as may remain in his hands at the receipt of this letter, reserving only to himself so much as may be deemed sufficient to answer his immediate charges; and we do moreover enjoin you that you do in future call upon the Import Warehousekeeper to pay at the end of every month into your treasury, such sums as he may have received for sales in the course of that month, making only a reserve as beforementioned for his current expenses.

93. We have determined that Mr. Stephen Bayard, a writer upon the Bombay establishment, be removed to your Presidency to rank next below Matthew Leslie, the youngest writer, and to be considered as a writer there from the time of Mr. Leslie's arrival, of which removal we have advised our Governor and Council of Bombay.

94. Since writing thus far, we have received from your Presidency by the *Mercury* packet, which arrived at Corke the 17th instant, the several advices sent by that vessel as contained in the lists of the packets. Those advices having been in our hands for a few hours only, and the time for the departure of these ships pressing, we must defer our observations

thereon to be sent by the way of Fort St. George on the *Calcutta* now under dispatch.

95. However, as we have received the plan of our President and Council for a bank in Bengal, we cannot avoid communicating to you such cursory remarks upon one general principle thereof, as appear to us necessary, in order to prevent a diminution of our revenues by that measure.

96. The Bank of Calcutta, we find, is to establish agents in the several districts, and the revenue officers are to pay their collections to those agents in the specific coins in which they receive them, but to draw upon the Bank for the amount to be paid to the Governor and Council at Calcutta in *sicca* rupees.

97. As we have expressed our fears that the revenues may be diminished by the high *batta* of the *sicca* rupee being rendered permanent, and as an example may illustrate our meaning better than merely reasoning upon the subject, we shall apply to a circumstance in the papers transmitted by the *Mercury* to convey to you our ideas thereupon.

98. We find on Secret Consultation the 4th October 1773, that the expenses of two battalions of our troops are charged to Sujah Dowla, and having been paid in rupees of various denominations are finally reduced by *batta* to *sunat* rupees 12,65,447; if we suppose the sum paid to the agents of the Bank, and drawn for in *sicca* rupees, the payment to the Governor and Council will amount to no more than rupees 12,10,900, and the loss to the Company will be rupees 54,546, because the weight and intrinsic value of the *sunat* rupee is exactly equal to that of the *sicca* rupee. Upon the same principle we conclude that for every 1,00,000 *sunats* paid to the agents of the Bank, in the various districts of Bengal, there will only be repaid to the Governor and Council at Calcutta rupees 94,828⁶, of the same weight and real value, and therefore this regulation cannot be confirmed by us.

99. We observe that the Company's servants are ordered to enforce the circulation of *sicca* [rupees] at a *batta* of 116, whilst *sunats* of the [same] weight and value are at no more than 111; and we fear the consequence will occasion great inconvenience as the measure is a real grievance; but having already given you our sentiments on the coinage and currency of Bengal we shall only repeat our direction that you take this subject into consideration without loss of time, and that you apply such remedies as shall appear best calculated to answer the desired purpose of fixing a rupee of such legal denomination as shall be as nearly as possible equal to the value of the silver contained therein, and of the expence of coinage.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Edwd. Wheler/John Harrison/Jn. Woodhouse/Samuel Peach/Fredk. Pigou/Daniel Wier/Wm. James/T.B. Rous/George Cum-
ing/Joseph Sparkes/Pet. Lascelles/Chas.
Boddam/Jn. Michie/Chas. Chambers Junr.
Rd. Hall/John Smith/George Tatem.

London,
30th March 1774. . . .

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LETTER DATED 13 APRIL 1774

Guinand to be appointed to first vacancy of Export Warehouse-keeper—Purling's work as Collector of Rangpur commended—further objections to plan of opening bank in Calcutta—Committee of Field Officers to decide cases of Major Henry Watson, Charles Morgan and Samuel Sears—Cunningham to be next Naval Storekeeper.

OUR Governor General and Council of Fort William in Bengal.

1. By the ships *Anson* and *Earl of Ashburnham* we transmitted to you, in duplicate, our instructions dated the 29th ultimo, and also a General Letter dated the following day.

2. Lieutenant General Clavering, the Hon'ble Colonel Monson and Philip Francis Esqr., Members of your Council; Sir Elijah Impey Chief Justice and Robert Chambers, Stephen Caesar Le Maistre and John Hyde Esqrs. Puisne Justices of the Supreme Court of Judicature have informed us they embarked on board the above ships the 1st instant, from which day the respective salaries directed to be paid them by the late Act of Parliament are to commence.

3. Being well satisfied of the knowledge, abilities and experience of Mr. Henry Guinand for rendering the Company very material service in the Bengal Export Warehouse we hereby direct that on the first vacancy after the receipt hereof he be appointed Export Warehousekeeper of your Presidency which he is to enjoy with the emoluments annexed to that office.

4. The conduct of Mr. Charles Purling in the district of Rungpore has warranted that deviation from our orders which has been made in his favor, respecting appointments to vacant collectorships and it is with singular pleasure we observe, that immediately upon Mr. Purling's appointment to an office in the Revenue Department, he evidenced his attention to our interest by an immediate and successful attempt to relieve the inhabitants of his district from a variety of cruel oppressions, nor is it less pleasing to us to find, that Mr. Purling's good conduct at Cooch. Behar has gained him great honour. We therefore direct that you continue to avail yourselves of his services, not only as a mark of our esteem and approbation of his conduct, but as an encouragement to others of our servants to distinguish themselves in the same commendable manner, when they shall succeed to places of equal trust and consequence in the service.

5. We have restored Giles Stibbert Esqr. to the Company's service and to the rank he would have held in our military, had he not left Bengal, which is next below Colonel Alexander Champion, and above Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Grant and have granted him a commission accordingly.

6. We have likewise re-instated Lieut. Colonel James Morgan to his original rank which is between Lieutenant Colonels Ironside and



Philip Francis

Sempill, and from the favorable mention you make of his merits, it is our order, that he do preserve that rank and rise in the service agreeable thereto. Both the above gentlemen have our leave to remain in England till next season for want of room in the ships now under dispatch.

7. We have permitted Major Samuel Sears (who came to England for the recovery of his health) to return to his duty without prejudice to his rank.

8. Having already signified to you our opinion on one general principle of the Bank lately established in Bengal and Bahar we proceed to such further observations as occur to us upon that important subject.

9. In the 2nd article of the plan the revenue officers are enjoined to pay their collections to the agents of the Bank. If it be intended that they shall pay over the gross amount of the revenue the principle appears to us to be erroneous and the practice would be exceedingly detrimental to our interest as it can only be necessary to remit the balance of each district to the Presidency.

10. By the balance of each district we mean such part of the revenue as is neither wanted for the provision of an investment in or near the district where the money is collected, nor for the maintenance of troops in the neighbourhood nor for any other local purposes whatever.

11. Upon such balance the Company may, with propriety, allow an exchange equal to the risk and trouble of remittance to Calcutta, but it would be a manifest absurdity to permit the whole revenue to be paid into the Bank and to incur the loss of exchange upon it, and then to submit to the expense of an immediate re-exchange upon such part thereof as it may be necessary to return back to the districts for the purposes above-mentioned.

12. We find that from the 31st January to the 19th March 1771, the bills drawn by the Brigade Paymasters upon the Military Paymaster General amounted to rupees 34,56,040; and during that period the money disbursed by him at the Presidency was no more than rupees 5,80,000; surely then it would have been highly improper to have circulated the former sum through the Bank and to have paid exchange from remote districts to the Presidency, and re-exchange from the Bank of Calcutta back again to the places of expenditure, supposing the money or any part thereof to have been collected at or near those places.

13. By adhering to tables which fix the *batta* upon different rupees in Bengal we hope one great source of fraud and oppression will be prevented. We therefore much approve of that regulation, except on the *sicca* rupee, the value whereof we assure ourselves you will not fail to adjust upon a more equitable plan than the present, so soon as possible, for the reasons already given in our General Letter of the 30th March last.

14. In respect to the security demanded from the Bank we are of opinion it should not have been dispensed with. If the Bank had been to advance money for the use of Government upon the growing revenues,

security would then have been unnecessary, but as their agents are always to be in possession of specie before they issue bills, we think the amount may, at times, be too great for an individual to make good in case of accident, more especially as the risk of conveyance is allowed to be great and as there is a possibility of individuals being too frugal in appointing escorts because attended with great expense.

15. The last mentioned observation arises from one alleged cause for instituting the Bank, and as upon the fullest consideration of this circumstance we are not certain that any but a military force may be equal to the necessary convoys, and cannot see the propriety of giving military assistance to private persons except on very extraordinary occasions, we have our doubts whether on this ground the plan be not liable to many objections; and since we do not find that the former mode of adjusting the accounts of the revenues by transfer of bills drawn by chiefs of subordinates, or by Military Paymasters in favor of the Governor and Council has been attended with any material inconveniences, we refer that mode again to your consideration. At all events before the new regulation be confirmed and the whole revenue put under the direction of a bank, we rely upon you to free the plan from the objections here pointed out, as otherwise it cannot receive our approbation.

16. Majors Henry Watson, Charles Morgan and Samuel Sears having respectively preferred their pleas to us for redress of injury alleged to have been sustained in point of rank, and as by the 33rd para. of your letter under the 15th January 1773, it appears that the late President and Council had referred the many claims made in the like cases to be accurately examined by a committee of field officers at the Presidency, who were to report their opinion for the Board's decision thereon, and as we consider that as an equitable mode of doing justice to all the claimants, we direct that the like method be followed by you for finally determining the pretensions of the three abovementioned officers, or of any others whose precise rank in the army shall continue undecided, reporting the proceedings thereon to us for our confirmation.

17. Having received a very favorable representation of the abilities and experience in business of Mr. John Davis, a writer on your establishment, we recommend it to you to give him such encouragement as his merits and abilities shall appear to deserve.

18. Although we informed you in our letter of the 10th December last, that we should not send out any cadets this season we have nevertheless thought proper to appoint Messrs. Geoe. Sackville Browne, George Jennings, Andrew Nowland, Edwd. Comerford Macnamara and John Dennis as cadets in your infantry, who are to rank in this order.

19. We have permitted Mr. Edward Cunningham to proceed to Calcutta to provide for himself in the sea-faring way and direct that he do succeed to the office of Naval Storekeeper when it shall become vacant by the avoidance of Captain Keble, on the same conditions as it was granted to Mr. Keble.

20. We have resolved to remove Mr. John Jephson, a writer upon the Bombay establishment, who is to take his rank upon your list next above Stephen Bayard mentioned in our letter to you dated the 30th ultimo.

21. As by the Act passed in the last session of Parliament the amount of certificates to each of the commanders and officers of the Company's ships in any one year is limited to five thousand pounds we hereby strictly enjoin you not to exceed the amount of that specific sum in the certificates you shall grant to such commanders and officers; and in calculating the amount of such certificates you are to estimate the rupee at the nominal value fixed by our last orders respecting rupees to be paid into our treasury for bills of exchange.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Edwd. Wheler/Henry Savage/Fredk. Pigou/
Daniel Wier/Jn. Woodhouse/H. Fletcher/
George Cuming/Pet. Lascelles/Chas. Bod-
dam/John Smith/Jno. Michie/Samuel Peach/
George Tatem/J. Hurlock/Wm. James/
Joseph Sparkes/T.B. Rous.

London,
13th April 1774.
[Per *Calcutta*]

12

LETTER DATED 23 DECEMBER 1774

Pilots to guide ships down the Hooghly—Peoplar Fund—illicit despatch of cloth—terms of Clive's jagir extended—Chief and Council at Balamban-gan superseded—restrictions on grant of certificates to commanders of ships.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The ship *Calcutta* carried our last letter to you dated the 13th April whereof the duplicate and triplicate will be transmitted by the ships *Colebrooke* and *Salisbury* now under dispatch for the Coast and Bay.

2. In the course of the past season we have received the following letters, vizt.

General Letters in the Public Department dated			14th and 19th April 1773
			received per French ship
			<i>Triton</i> 22nd April 1774
-do-	-do-	-do-	16th and 18th August
			received per <i>Mercury</i> 26th
			March
-do-	Secret	-do-	16th -do- -do-
-do-	Revenue	-do-	17th -do- -do-
President Hastings to our Secret Committee			10th September received
			overland 8th April

General Letter in the Public Department	12th October	per <i>Mercury</i>
		26th March
-do- Secret -do-	-do-	-do-
-do- Select Committee	11th -do-	-do-
-do- Public Department	10th November	per <i>Latham</i>
		5th May
-do- Secret -do-	-do-	-do-
-do- Select Committee	9th -do-	-do-
-do- Revenue Department	10th -do-	-do-
President Hastings (Court of Directors)	11th -do-	-do-
General Letter in the Public Department	15th and 16th December 1773	received per <i>Bridgewater</i> via Madras 18th August
-do- -do-	30th -do-	<i>Houghton</i>
		2nd March
-do- Secret -do-	-do-	-do-
-do- Select Committee	31st -do-	-do-
-do- Revenue Department	-do-	-do-
-do- Public -do-	6th January 1774	per <i>Northington</i> via Madras 14th July
-do- -do-	17th -do-	<i>Egmont</i> 21st -do-
-do- Secret -do-	-do-	-do-
-do- Revenue -do-	15th -do-	-do-
-do- Public -do-	15th and 26th March	<i>Resolution</i>
		26th November
-do- Secret -do-	15th March	-do-
-do- Select Committee	17th -do-	-do-
-do- Revenue Department	15th and 22nd March	-do-
President Hastings, two letters dated 24th	-do-	-do-

3. In the beginning of September last, we wrote a short letter to Bombay overland principally to give some restrictive orders upon several instances of unjustifiable conduct in our Chief and Council at Balambagan, and in that letter we directed our servants at Bombay to convey to you certain information respecting the terms and conditions whereon we had entertained fifteen ships for the Company's service this season, but lest any failure should have happened in the conveyance of that information, we hereby acquaint you that we have continued the mode adopted last season of taking up the ships on freight at their builders measurement for China and Bencoolen and at seven eighths of that measurement to all other parts of India. The exact tonnage each ship is let for to the Company, as also the names of their commanders and the places whereto they are consigned, will appear by the following list, and as the copies of the charterparties, which will be forwarded on the several ships to be laden home from Bengal, will shew you, they are taken up on the same freights, terms and conditions as the ships of last season; we have only to add our confirmation of the orders we gave in our

General Letter of the 29th October 1773, with respect to the points of surplus tonnage, demorage and detention of the ships returning home from your Presidency.

Ships	Commanders	Burthen Tons	Consignments
<i>Queen</i>	George Stainforth Junior	804	} Coast and China
<i>Grosvenor</i>	David Saunders	729	
<i>Rochford</i>	John Baird	716	} Bencoolen and
<i>Lord North</i>	William Hambly	761	
<i>Osterley</i>	Francis Fortescue	758	} St. Helena and
<i>Hampshire</i>	Thomas Taylor Junior	696	
<i>Salisbury</i>	Philip Bromfield	575	} Coast and Bay
<i>Ankerwyke</i>	James Barwell	594	
<i>Nottingham</i>	Peter Stoakes	613	
<i>Godfrey</i>	Francis Reed	626	
<i>Hillsborough</i>	Robert Preston	633	} Coast and Bay
<i>Colebrooke</i>	Arthur Morris	633	
<i>Grenville</i>	Burnet Abercrombie	612	} Bombay
<i>Talbot</i>	Raymond Snow	575	
<i>Gutton</i>	William Money	663	Bombay and China

4. If any of the commanders of our freighted ships, consigned to your Presidency, shall apply to you for cash for their ships use, you are to advance such sums as they may want upon the terms mentioned in our General Letter of the 10th April 1771.

5. In our enquiry into the conduct of Captain Fraser on the loss of the ship *Lord Mansfield* we could not help remarking the dangerous consequences which may happen from ships not being attended by proper pilot vessels in coming out of Bengal river, and in order to prevent the same we direct that when the Company's ships leave the river they be attended by two sloops or vessels which are to be stationed on each bow of the ship under the direction of the pilot, and that proper signals be settled by the pilot to be made by them for his guidance and information; these vessels must keep a lead of the ship the whole time she is under sail, and no pilot be suffered to leave any ship before she is advanced to the southward into fifteen or sixteen fathoms water.

6. Upon examining the disbursements of Captain Sharpe of the Company's ship *Mercury* we find a charge of hospital expenses for several of his ships Company, which we consider as improperly made and ought to have been placed to the Company's accounts; it is therefore our direction that all future expenses incurred in your hospital on account of the seamen of the Company's own ships be charged to our account.

7. Having constituted Edward Wheeler Esqr. Chairman, John Harrison Esqr. Deputy Chairman, together with John Manship, Frederick Pigou and Henry Savage Esqr. our Secret Committee for the present season, you are hereby directed, punctually to obey such orders as you may receive

from any three or more of them so far as respects the safety of our shipping.

8. The very low state of our Poplar Fund¹, which you well know is solely appropriated to the relief of the navigators of our Europe shipping and their indigent families, has lately obliged us to adopt a mode for an increase of it by charging the owners of our freighted ships two shillings, instead of one shilling and six pence a ton, on the tonnage for which their several ships are chartered and also by obliging the commanders, officers and seamen of each ship to pay three pence in the pound from their wages; but as you must be sensible even this regulation will not afford all the assistance we could wish towards so excellent an institution we most earnestly recommend this charity to your bounty, not doubting when you consider that the appropriation of it is for the relief of the really indigent and truly deserving who, in their own persons or those of their near relations, must be considered as having contributed to the support of the Company's commerce and yielded protection to that of individuals in their private trade, you will heartily exert yourselves in procuring contributions for this fund. And whatever may be the amount of such contributions you will advise us that we may order the same to be carried to the credit thereof.

9. Our Governor and Council at St. Helena having lately informed us that the island is in so very plentiful and flourishing a condition that they shall be well able to supply the want of the present reduced number of our shipping, if only five or six of the early returning ones are ordered to touch at the Cape and bring down wheat and fifty sheep each for the use of the hospital, and as they have been lately overstocked with garden seeds desiring the commanders of such ships may be instructed not to lay out more than five pounds in this article for their use; we shall accordingly recommend it to the especial attention of the commanders, now outward bound, on their touching at the Cape homewards to comply with those requests, if they shall have good reason to be assured that the abovementioned number of ships which may have arrived there before them shall not have purchased such supplies. And we shall further require the said commanders to provide their ships with cattle and refreshments at the island, the inhabitants and planters being perfectly enabled to answer their demands, and whose benefit and support we have greatly at heart. You will therefore on the dispatch of every ship from Bengal remind the commanders that very good reasons will be required for a non compliance with these orders.

10. We have informed our China Council that we shall consign thither in the next season not less than six ships, including the ship from Bombay, to be loaded from thence to Europe, and we give you this hint of our intention that you may have in contemplation the necessary assistance to be afforded by you.

11. The principal articles of our intended export this season to India and China are to be as follow, vizt.

For Bengal. Cloth one thousand and four bales, long ells one

hundred bales, copper six hundred tons, lead one hundred and sixty tons, iron fifty tons, gunpowder two hundred barrels, musquets one thousand and fusils two hundred.

For Fort St. George. Cloth eight hundred and fifty seven bales, long ells thirty two bales, copper three hundred tons, lead seventy tons, iron thirty tons, gunpowder one thousand barrels of 60 lb. each, musquets six thousand, carbines two thousand, fusils one thousand and pistols six hundred pair.

For Bombay. Cloth six hundred and forty bales, long ells two hundred and twenty six bales, broad long ells twenty bales, copper five hundred tons, lead one hundred and twenty five tons, iron one hundred tons, steel eighty tons, musquets one thousand three hundred, fusils fifty, carbines fifty, beef thirty puncheons, pork thirty hogsheads.

For Bussora. Two hundred bales of long ells of ten pieces each.

For China. Cloth seven hundred and fifty six bales, long ells one thousand and ninety eight bales, lead two hundred and forty tons.

For Fort Marlborough. Iron twenty tons, steel twenty five tons, lead five tons, gunpowder twenty five barrels, beef twenty five puncheons, pork twenty five hogsheads.

12. The consignments of copper, iron and steel will be made to the Board of Trade, who are to furnish the different storekeepers with such proportions of those articles as you shall think necessary for the Company's use, and to order the remainder to be put up to sale.

13. We have ordered our President and Council at Fort Marlborough to indent to you for such quantity of gunnies as they may want, being better adapted for pepper bags than hessens, and also for what other articles they may stand in need of, and we recommend it to you to comply with their requests accordingly.

14. Upon the best calculates that can be made we think six ships will be sufficient for our investments from the Coast and Bay ; nevertheless if, contrary to our expectations, you should be in absolute want of more tonnage in such case you must desire the President and Council of Bombay to send the *Talbot* round to Bengal or Fort St. George for that service.

15. And even if you should not want the *Talbot's* assistance we shall notwithstanding direct our Presidency of Bombay to give her an early dispatch to Bengal with cotton, in order to be returned to Bombay with saltpetre and from thence to be sent to England with a proper cargo unless you or our Presidency of Fort St. George should have occasion for her.

16. In aid of the tonnage to be sent from the several Presidencies next season you will provide two thousand tons of saltpetre and concert with our other Presidencies the proportions they may want to compleat their tonnage.

17. From the foregoing list of ships you will observe we have consigned four ships to Canton which with the *Stafford*, ordered thither from Bombay, we judge adequate to supply our demands from that branch of our trade in the year 1775. Here we must again repeat our wonted

injunctions that you exert yourselves in supplying our supracargos in China with such cash and merchandize as their occasions may require, observing that we shall permit them to receive so much money into our cash, for bills of exchange on us as may enable them to leave a surplus of not less than one hundred thousand pounds for the use of the commission for the following year, such bills to be drawn by the two last ships of the season at the rate of five shillings the weighty dollar payable at twelve months sight without interest.

18. The ships consigned to China this season, we shall direct to be put under the management of Messrs. Edward Phipps, Francis Wood, Matthew Raper, William Henry Pigou, George Rogers, Abraham Roebuck, Henry Browne and John Harrison who are also appointed the Residents there in 1775.

19. We have directed the ships *Queen*, *Ankerwyke*, *Hillsborough* and *Gatton* to call at Madeira to take in four hundred pipes of wine for the use of our Presidencies of Bengal, Fort St. George and Bombay, one hundred and ninety whereof are intended for your Presidency, the invoices and bills of lading of which you will receive from our correspondents at that Island, and you must as usual advise us of the quality and leakage thereof.

20. Mr. John Mackenzie appointed a factor at your Presidency last season, but whose ill state of health then prevented him from proceeding thither, will take his passage on one of the ships of this season, and on his arrival is to rank agreeable to our appointment advised in the General Letter of the 30th March last.

21. Upon taking into consideration the number of writers at present employed under our several Presidencies, we are of opinion, they have been amply supplied with persons in that capacity and therefore have resolved that no writers be sent out this season.

22. And as there appeared by the last list of military officers received from your Presidency to be not only many supernumerary commissioned officers, but also many cadets unprovided for, we have resolved not to send any cadets to Bengal this season.

23. The number of recruits intended for your Presidency this season is 590, exclusive of 150 serjeants and corporals agreeable to your recommendation, whereof 130 are put on board the ships *Queen* and *Grosvenor* consigned to Fort St. George, and we have directed that Presidency to forward them to you by the first conveyances.

24. Captain William Cooke who came to England to recover his health which had been much impaired by the great fatigue he had undergone in the discharge of his duty in the several active posts wherein he served, has our permission to return to his station without prejudice to his rank, and in consideration his services and sufferings, we recommend him [to] your favorable notice to be employed in such post as shall be suitable to his rank and situation.

25. We have considered your repeated recommendation of the case of Captain Nevil Parker, and as from the many instances of lenity shewn

to the several officers concerned in the mutiny in 1766 Captain Parker has some degree of pretension to our favour, we therefore direct that upon receipt hereof Captain Parker be restored to his full rank in our infantry at your Presidency which is that of a lieutenant colonel next below Lieutenant Colonel Upton, but as we cannot think of increasing the number of officers of that rank beyond our establishment, Captain Parker is only to have the usual pay of captain until the number of lieutenant colonels be reduced to that ordered by our General Letter of the 10th April 1771, when such reduction has taken place, Mr. Parker is to enjoy the full pay and emoluments of lieutenant colonel, and we hope this mark of our favour will be received by him with that gratitude which will be amply testified in his future conduct.

26. Mr. James Kerr one of your assistant surgeons having been represented to us, by one of the most eminent physicians in this country as very well qualified for making enquiries into the natural productions of India especially such as may be useful in medicine and commerce, and as such persons who pursue those beneficial studies are deserving of our favour, we therefore recommend him to your notice and to grant him such encouragement as shall appear to you to be due to his merit and services.

27. Upon opening one of the packets of letters by the ship *Resolution* in the presence of one of His Majesty's officers as is always done and several shawls and pieces of muslin being found in parcels directed to the persons mentioned in the enclosed list, those goods were thereupon seized. As such practices may render our packets suspected, subject them to very strict search and be attended with many other inconveniences, we direct that you make an enquiry after the persons guilty of this intended fraud to the revenue and reprimand them in our name. You are also to give such directions to the persons whom you entrust with conducting the dispatch and closing the packets as may effectually prevent so scandalous a practice hereafter.

28. Mr. William Marriott, a junior merchant upon your establishment who came to England with your permission for the recovery of his health, has our leave to return to his station on the *Hillsborough* without prejudice to his rank.

29. Colonel Giles Stibbert, Lieutenant Colonel James Morgan and Major Samuel Sears take their passage on the ships now under dispatch; upon their arrival they are to rank agreeable to the commissions they have received from us.

30. Having taken into our consideration the rates of exchange for which bills are drawn upon us, we have thought fit to reduce the same in the following manner vizt.

From Bengal at two shillings and one penny per current rupee.

From Fort St. George at seven shillings and four pence the pagoda.

From Bombay at two shillings and three pence the Bombay rupee.

From China and Fort Marlbro' at five shillings the Spanish dollar.

31. We hereby authorize and permit you to draw upon us for one year commencing the 1st August 1775 and ending the 31st July 1776 for one hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling to be remitted by our civil and military servants, and the further sum of twenty five thousand pounds for the benefit of free merchants and others not in the Company's service and on account of deceased persons estates and of persons returned from the East Indies.

32. We also direct that in the above sum of one hundred and fifty thousand pounds you are to include Lord Clive's *jaghire*, and in part of the sum of twenty five thousand pounds abovementioned, you are to grant bills on the following accounts for the undermentioned sums, on their being tendered to you for that purpose vizt. John Michie Esqr. three thousand pounds; John Stables Esqr. three thousand pounds; Lieut. Colonel Hector Munro three thousand pounds; Mr. James Olive five hundred pounds; on account of the late Mr. Watts's estate two thousand five hundred pounds; Mr. Sampson two hundred pounds; on account of the estate of Mr. Charles Forbes deceased two hundred and twenty pounds; on account of the effects of Captain Richard Lauder deceased eighty pounds; the attornies of Mrs. Barbara Baron three hundred pounds; on account of Lieutenant Russell for his mother the value in the hands of Dr. Burn three hundred pounds; John Caillaud Esqr. two thousand five hundred pounds; on account of Captain Sellick seven hundred and fifty pounds; on account of Captain Maverly's estate one thousand two hundred pounds; in the hands of Major John Fortnom the amount of the effects of Thomas Martin deceased to be made payable to his mother Mary Moore (late Martin) wife of the Reverend Thomas Moore of North Cray in Kent four hundred pounds; the attornies of Brabazon Ellis Esqr. one thousand pounds and to Mr. Pickering Robinson £600 also Mrs. Ann Keem £125.

33. Our orders of the 10th December are to be your guide for the certificates to be granted to the commanders and officers of our freighted ships, except in the rate of exchange which is to be computed agreeable to that settled by this letter.

34. It is our direction that out of the sum appropriated to be remitted for deceased persons estates, you do annually grant bills for two hundred pounds part of the estate of the late Mr. Hunt, deposited in our cash, to be made payable to Sir Charles Raymond Bart. to discharge the maintenance and education of the minor, and to be applied to the other uses mentioned in the will of the Testatrix.

35. Having given directions in the 32nd of this letter relative to the remitting of Lord Clive's *jaghire*, it may be necessary here to remind you that by the Company's grant to Lord Clive dated the 4th November 1767, the *jaghire* is to continue to be paid to his Lordship or his heirs during the term of ten years from the 5th May 1774 a copy of which instrument was transmitted to you in our letter of the 20th November 1767 as mentioned in the 53rd and 54th paragraphs of that letter.

36. Mr. Lawrence Orman has again applied to us to be paid the

amount of his budgerow and cargo pressed by Sir Robert Fletcher in 1765 of which he has procured Sir Robert's certificate as to the justice of his demand and to the truth thereof. Mr. Orman has made oath, the originals whereof are sent and we therefore direct that you pay to his attorney what shall appear to be justly due on that account.

37. The imprudent management and highly profuse conduct of our Chief and Council at Balambangan have obliged us to supercede them, and to entrust others (of whom we shall hereafter advise you) with the conduct of our affairs there.

38. And observing from your advice by the *Resolution* on the subject of the immense supplies from your Presidency that it is high time to put a stop to such an excessive drain from your treasury, we therefore direct that you comp'y with the demands that Chiefship *shall hereafter make on you*, either for stores or merchandize to such an extent only as on the most minute examination of their indents you shall deem absolutely necessary, or, as on the clearest reasons, you shall be convinced will certainly promote those benefits and advantages which we are inclined to expect from a commercial intercourse to the eastward by forming an establishment at Balambangan.

39. By an Act of Parliament passed in the 13th year of His Majesty's reign, we are restricted from accepting certificates to the commanders and officers of each of our freighted ships for more than five thousand pounds, and as the amount of the certificates drawn in favor of the commanders and officers of several ships arrived from your Presidency this season, has exceeded five thousand pounds, we have been under the necessity of refusing our acceptance for the surplus and have therefore given the commanders of the undermentioned ships instruments to demand repayment of such surplus out of your treasury consisting of the following sums.

Captain John Sealy of the	<i>Northington</i>	for current Rs. 4717
Captain Nicholas Skottowe	<i>Bridgewater</i>	4067-10
Captain John Prince	<i>Latham</i>	4717
Captain Thomas Poynting	<i>Resolution</i>	4717
Captain Nathl. Paul	<i>Harcourt</i>	4717
Captain William Smith	<i>Houghton</i>	4717
Captain Charles Mears	<i>Egmont</i>	4717
Captain Danl. Griffiths Hoate	<i>British King</i>	2033.13
Do.....		2033.13

40. Captain Henry Gardiner late Commander of the *Lapwing* snow proceeds to Bengal on the ship *Salisbury*, we recommend him to you to be employed in the pilot service and to be promoted so soon as he shall be found qualified.

41. We send in the several ships packets lists of the passengers permitted to proceed to your Presidency this season.

42. Being desirous that the *Colebrooke* should be one of the ships to be dispatched from Fort St. George, you are therefore if she should arrive at a proper time at your Presidency to return her to Fort St. George as

soon as convenient with a proper quantity of saltpetre that she may receive the remainder of her cargo in order to proceed from thence to Europe.

43. We have drawn one set of bills of exchange payable at thirty days sight and two shillings and one penny the current rupee vizt.

One set for rupees nine hundred and sixty,	}	Rupees 960 £100
for pounds sterling one hundred in favor		
of Mr. Robert Pott or order received		
of Mr. Percivall Pott dated the 19th		
December 1774.....		

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Edw. Wheler/John Harrison/Fredk. Pigou/
Daniel Wier/Henry Fletcher/George Cuming/
Chas. Boddam/W.G. Freeman/Jno. Michie/
John Smith/R. Hall/J. Stables/George Tatem/
Joseph Sparkes/Pet. Lascelles.

London,
23 December 1774.

13

LETTER DATED 4 JANUARY 1775

Shipping news—new Council of Balambangan proceeding from Bencoolen on the Syren—samples of paper forwarded.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The ships *Colebrooke* and *Salisbury* conveyed to you our letter of the 23d ultimo, and by the ships *Ankerwyke* and *Hillsborough* will be forwarded other transcripts of that letter; those ships' invoices and bills of lading will inform you of the particulars laden thereon for your Presidency.

2. We have already advised you of the measures taken by us respecting the management of the Company's affairs at Balambangan, and it is further necessary to inform you, that the *Syren* snow which came from thence last summer, is now on her return thither with our dispatches, Captain Smith, her Commander, is ordered first to Bencoolen, in order to accommodate Mr. Nairn and Mr. Linnoa the new Chief and Third of Council with passage from thence to Balambangan. What remains for your present information in regard to that settlement, will be explained by the copy of part of our advices to the Chief and Council, which is forwarded in duplicate by the ships *Ankerwyke* and *Hillsborough*. Mr. Linnoa proceeded on the *Lord North* to Bencoolen. The *Syren* or some other vessel you will observe is to be sent to England by the Chief and Council, the latter part of the first season after she arrives at Balambangan.

3. By the ships of this and future seasons, we have and shall order

a quire of each sort of paper to be put up as a sample, and forwarded in each ship's packet whereon stationary may be laden for your Presidency.

4. In consideration of the favorable testimonials we have received of Mr. Thomas Lyon, who served the Company for several years as the master carpenter at your Presidency, we have permitted him to return to Bengal to exercise his profession, he having assured us that if his services shall be wanted in the Company's behalf, he will afford them all the assistance in his power.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Edw. Wheler/John Harrison/Freds.
Pigou/Wm. James/George Cuming/
W. G. Freeman/Nath. Smith/Henry
Fletcher/W. Devaynes/Chas. Boddam/
J. Stables/Pet. Lascelles/Samuel Peach/
John Smith/T. B. Rous/Joseph Sparkes.

London,
4th January 1775.

14

LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 1775

Restrictions on free mariners and pilots—high prices of Bengal investment—suspension of tribute to Shah Alam justified—appointment of Muhammad Riza Khan—observations on Rohilla expedition—French claims in Bengal—Chevalier's complaint against Barwell—payment of Raja Krishnachandra's bail approved—concessions to salt merchants—Plate appointed superintendent of Raw Silk Investment—services of Cotes, Auriol and Baugh commended—reform of coinage and currency urged—creation of office of Auditor and Comptroller of offices—Col. Munro's jagir—plan to reduce interest on debts.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since we wrote to you under date the 4th of January last, we have received overland a General Letter from our President and Council of Fort William dated 25th April, and letters from our Select Committee dated 14th and 19th May. The above were received the 14th January.

2. We have also received letters from General Clavering, the Honble. George Monson and Philip Francis Esquire, dated from Spithead the 9th April, from Madeira the 1st May, and from the Cape of Good Hope the 17th July 1774.

3. By the ships *Godfrey* and *Nottingham* now under dispatch, we transmit to you such remarks as have occurred to us upon the late advices of our President and Council, and communicate to you such directions and

instructions, as appear to us necessary for your guidance in the administration of the extensive and important affairs committed to your management.

First, of shipping

4. As several of the officers in our sea service have not been able to procure berths in our freighted ships, on account of the small number taken up the last and present seasons, we have upon their request permitted them to proceed to, and remain in the East Indies as free mariners, lists of whom are herewith transmitted.

5. We have permitted John Gascoigne to return to his duty as a mate in your pilot services, without prejudice to his standing, and have paid the expence of his passage.

6. Mr. Nathaniel Butler is licensed to proceed to Bengal at his own expense to be employed in our pilot service, and we have entertained Edward Burton as a seaman to be employed in the same service.

7. In order to prevent persons who have gone to India under free mariners indentures, or with an intention of settling in the pilot service, from engaging in any military, civil or other employment than that for which they obtained our permission to reside in India, we direct that upon their refusal to conform to the terms upon which they obtained our license, you forthwith withdraw from them the Company's protection.

8. You will receive in the packets *Per Godfrey* and *Nottingham* several copies of Mr. Dalrymple's collection of plans of ports & ca. in the East Indies which have been published since those we sent last year by the ships *Earl of Ashburnham* and *Anson*.

Secondly, of goods from Europe, or from one part of India to another

9. Being restricted by Act of Parliament from exporting to St. Helena and our settlements in the East Indies more than 500 quarters of wheat meal or flour, which being insufficient for their maintenance, we therefore recommend it to you to increase the quantities of rice and paddy which you generally send to St. Helena.

10. From the large quantities of military stores indented for, we are of opinion, that proper attention has not been paid in drawing out the indents, in particular we observe, that fifteen thousand musquets are desired without any cause being assigned why so large a number are wanted. And although the granting two thousand stands of arms to Sujah ul Dowlah, and the actual service which has happened in consequence of the late intercourse with him, may have rendered a large quantity of musquets necessary, yet the special reasons for an indent so very considerable as the above, should nevertheless have been assigned for our information.

11. The indent for shot appears also very large; for although the sizes are few, and none above an 18 pounder, we find the tonnage of the 18, 6, 3, 1, and $\frac{1}{2}$ pounders amounts to nearly 150 tons; and the tonnage of shot from

6 ounces to $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce inclusive, amounts to 80 tons more; two thousand barrels of gunpowder are likewise requested, but as no one of the Company's ships carries more than from one hundred to one hundred and ten barrels, and as it might have been supposed that if a greater quantity could have been put on board it would always have been done; this circumstance alone, had it been attended to, would have convinced our President and Council, that the number of ships usually consigned to Madras and Bengal, could not admit of our sending the quantity indented for to the last mentioned settlement, after deducting what must be deemed necessary for a supply to Fort St. George.

12. We observe that the military indent requires no less than five hundred chaldrons of coals, the tonnage of which would be seven hundred tons; six hundred iron trucks for garrison carriages are also requested, but the indent gives only the supposed diameter of the axles, without mentioning as usual the nature of the guns to be mounted thereon, which is a very great impropriety.

13. The indent of naval stores appears to be drawn out with more care, and does not come under the description of the military indent, but the indent for stationary is exceptionable in several instances, particularly in desiring eighty dozen of penknives and eighty hones, which we apprehend cannot be fairly expended in a reasonable space of time.

14. We have permitted Mr. Levett's attorney to ship four copper stills with worms, and four wooden pumps for the use of his distillery, for which freight has been paid. The stills are sent on the *Colebrooke*, *Grosvenor*, *Godfrey* and *Nottingham*, but as the *Grosvenor* is bound to Coast and China, the still on board that ship is to be forwarded from Madras, on one of the Coast and Bay ships of this season.

15. Enclosed in the packet you will receive our Accountant's report of the Tower assays, of the coins received from Bengal the last season, with his remarks thereon, which you are to observe with that attention the importance of the subject requires.

Thirdly, of investment

16. We now send you list of the investment to be provided in Bengal for the ships destined for the Coast and Bay this season, in which are our observations and remarks for your guidance in the provision of the several articles, to which you are to give all due attention.

17. The high price of our present Bengal investment, compared with that of former years, requires your immediate and most serious consideration. The subject has been frequently discussed by our President and Council, but we must observe that the following circumstances intimately connected therewith, seem not to have been sufficiently attended to in the course of their deliberations.

18. It appears to us that the great increase of price on the manufactures of Bengal, of which we have so much reason to complain, commenced

about the year 1769. At that period the extraordinary measure of purchasing goods at Calcutta for the Company's investment was adopted. A resolution was also taken to grant Company's bonds for the same payable in twelve months bearing interest after the rate of eight p. cent per annum; and the goods so purchased in the first season only, amounted to pounds sterling 289,819.

19. We readily grant that if the revenues of Bengal had enabled us to support our civil government, to maintain an army for the defences of the provinces, reimbursed us for our European exports and yielded us a clear surplus to the amount of our annual investment, the nominal value of the goods would have been of less consequence to the Company, as the investment must in such case have been considered merely as a remittance from Bengal to Britain; but as that has not been the case, and as we have been reduced to the necessity of borrowing money at Fort William, and of purchasing goods on credit to a very large amount, the advance of price now becomes a matter of the utmost consequence, and operates as an actual drawback upon the revenues.

20. When the Governor and Council resolved upon the measure of opening the Company's warehouse at the Presidency for the receipt of goods to be paid for by interest notes, our bond debt in Bengal, was only pounds sterling 351,817 but in 1773 it amounted to no less than pounds sterling 1,547,458; and the annual interest upon the increase alone is pounds sterling 95,636.

21. It must be allowed that remittances were made to our other settlements, and several extraordinary expences incurred in Bengal from 1769 to 1773; and also that in the year 1770 the famine occasioned a considerable diminution of the revenue, but when we consider that bills were drawn upon us about that time for pounds sterling 1,063,000; we cannot but be of opinion that so great an addition to our common resources, must have been more than equivalent to such diminution of revenue, and to all extraordinary disbursements.

22. From this view of facts, we must conclude that the advance of price paid for our Bengal investment, has been the principal cause of the increase of our bond debt, and consequently the means of subjecting us to the heavy additional interest abovementioned.

23. The amount of our Bengal cargoes from 1769 to 1773 is pounds sterling 2,901,194; and if the average increase of price be estimated at 25 p. cent only the amount of such increase is pounds sterling 725,298.

24. The above circumstances are exceedingly alarming to us, but what must be our concern to find by the advices of our President and Council of 1773, that a further advance of 40 p. cent on Bengal goods was expected, and allowed to be the consequence of advertisements then published, authorizing a free trade in the provinces.

25. We find the *duannee* revenues are in general farmed for five years and the aggregate increase estimated at only rupees 16,28,189 or pounds sterling 183,170 on a supposition that such increase will be realized,

yet if the annual investment be 60 lacks, and the advance of price 30 p. cent only, such advance will exceed the increase of the revenue by no less than pound sterling 829,330.

26. We are far from being convinced that the competition which tends to raise the price of goods in Bengal, is wholly between publick European companies, or between merchants in general who export to foreign markets. We are rather of opinion that the sources of this grand evil have been the extraordinary privilege granted to individuals in our service, or under our license, to trade without restriction throughout the provinces of Bengal, and the encouragement they have had to extend their trade to the uttermost, even in such goods as were proper for our investment, by observing the success of those persons, who have from time to time found means to dispose of their merchandize to our Governor and Council, though of so bad a quality as to be sold here with great difficulty, after having been frequently refused and put up at the next sale without price, to the very great discredit and disadvantage of the Company.

27. Unwilling as we are to return to the former coercive system of providing an investment, or to abridge that freedom of commerce which has been so lately established in Bengal, yet at the same time, finding it our indispensible duty to strike at the root of an evil, which has been so severely felt by the Company and which can no longer be supported, we hereby direct that all persons whatever in the Company's service, or under our protection, be absolutely prohibited by publick advertisement, from trading in any of those articles which compose our investment, directly or indirectly, except on account of and for the East India Company, until our investment is compleated.

28. We also direct that from the receipt hereof at Fort William, no ready money goods be purchased for us on any account or pretence, unless it shall be found utterly impossible to obtain cargoes for our returning ships, by the ordinary means of providing our investment at the *aurungs*, which we are convinced can never happen, except on very extraordinary occasions; but if, contrary to our expectations, it should at any time be the case, we direct that one month's notice at least be given by publick advertisement specifying what goods will be wanted, and that musters and sealed proposals be received, and the lowest offers invariably accepted; and we likewise positively direct that no greater quantity be ever purchased on the above terms than shall be absolutely necessary, to prevent our ships from remaining in India, or from returning to Europe without their proper tonnage.

29. We further direct that the above regulations be forthwith published throughout the provinces, and considered as standing orders of the Company in all time to come; and also, that every person offending against the same, be forthwith suspended from our service, and not restored without our express permission.

30. To the above we have only to add, that as the prosperity of the Company materially depends upon the reduction of the enormous rates of Bengal manufactures, we can have no doubt of your speedy attention

to the subject. We trust you will cordially unite in carrying these our orders into execution, and not discontinue your efforts till the evils pointed out shall have been effectually removed, and such salutary regulations established, as shall prevent future loss to the Company in the provision of their investment.

31. Our Governor and Council having prohibited Export Warehouse-keepers and Residents at subordinates, from trading in such articles as form the Company's investment, we hereby approve the said regulation, and direct that it be also observed as a standing order by every person who shall at any time hereafter be appointed to the stations abovementioned.

*Fourthly, concerning the country government, European powers
and the trade of India*

32. Having taken into our most serious consideration the circumstances which induced our President and Council to suspend payment of tribute to His Majesty Shaw Allum, we must declare, that his own conduct has rendered that measure not only expedient but absolutely necessary.

33. We have heretofore signified our earnest desire to have His Majesty accomodated if possible with a suitable residence within the limits of Bengal, in order to avoid those evils which we soon found would result from a continual drain of the circulating specie of the provinces; but notwithstanding we were assured that such residence would have been for the King's real advantage, yet as His Majesty discovered an aversion to the measure, we never abated in our attention to his person, which is fully evinced by the regular payment of the stipulated tribute. We thought it incumbent on us to lay our sentiments before His Majesty, but we took no steps whatever which could be construed as intended to restrain him from acting on the occasion as he should think proper. It was however with deep concern, we observed, the King's views were such as appeared to us altogether inconsistent with his circumstances. Instead of availing himself of a situation so eligible as that which the provinces might have afforded him, His Majesty gave us early proofs, that nothing less than the possession of Delhi could satisfy his desires and the measures adopted and pursued by him for that purpose, were utterly repugnant to the interests of the Company.

34. The junction of His Majesty with the Marattas, the defeat of his army by their troops, and the cession of the provinces assigned for his support, were circumstances so alarming, that it became the indispensable duty of our President and Council, to seize the opportunity which then offered, for preventing those provinces from falling into the hands of the Marattas, who were not only become formidable to our ally Sujah ul Dowlah, but were evidently aspiring at universal conquest.

35. Although the Provinces of Corah and Allahabad were reserved to the King by the treaty of 1765, we can by no means allow, that His Majesty acquired by that treaty, a right to resign them into the hands of our enemies. As the Vizier of the empire is the first officer under his Majesty,



Shah Alam

and as the territories in question were formerly held by the Vizier, we cannot but be of opinion, that our servants acted with great propriety in committing them again to his management, when it became absolutely impossible for His Majesty to hold them in his own immediate possession. And as the King had not only withdrawn himself from our protection and abandoned the countries assigned to him, but also continued by his presence to countenance the depredations of the Marattas, we fully approve the resolution of our President and Council, under those circumstances, to suspend payment of tribute to His Majesty; as we think the general principles of self-preservation warranted them to withhold resources, which if sent, they knew must fall into the hands of the Marattas, and which they had every reason to believe would be appropriated to the use of their army, and contribute towards enabling them to commit hostilities in our own province, or in those of our allies.

36. For the above reasons, we upon the maturest deliberation confirm the Treaty of Banaris, and we also hereby direct that no further remittances be made to the King without our express permission first obtained for that purpose.

37. If the King's *vackeel* shall voluntarily, or by order of His Majesty remain at Calcutta, we consent for the present that he be allowed the sum appointed by our President and Council for his support.

38. And if you shall be of opinion that it may be in the power of Nudjuff Khan to render us future services, and therefore that it will be prudent to pay his stipend, we direct that in such case it be continued.

39. We have examined the separate Consultation of our President and Council respecting Mahomed Reza Khan, and embrace the present opportunity of testifying our approbation of their conduct during the whole of that enquiry, and although the particular informations transmitted us against Mahomed Reza Khan, and those general and alarming accounts of oppressions with which the records of our Presidency of Fort William abounded, must have rendered it our indispensable duty to have his administration scrutinized, we are nevertheless well pleased on finding him able to exculpate himself from all charges brought against him, to the satisfaction of our servants, notwithstanding they, on the spot, had deemed them so well founded as to entertain no doubt of fixing on him facts sufficient to justify our censure and to warrant his dismissal from publick employment.

40. These being the sentiments of our President and Council relative to Mahomed Reza Khan's general conduct, we cannot but notice also that their ideas respecting the arrears due from him to the *Circar* were nearly similar to our own, as appears by their letter of the 10th December 1772, wherein they inform us that they had great reason to believe, on a scrutiny into Mahomed Reza Khan's Dacca accounts, a balance would appear against him of upwards of seventeen lacks of rupees.

41. If our Governor and Council at Fort William had reason to be of opinion that the result of an enquiry would issue as abovementioned.

we cannot but conclude there must have been such publick and general appearances of mal-administration, as warranted the particular information communicated to us, and rendered it absolutely necessary for us to use the most speedy and effectual means in our power for delivering the natives from apparent tyranny and oppression, and for recovering to the Nabob, or to the Company, the amount of all monies supposed to have been embezzled or misapplied by Mahomed Reza Khan, or outstanding in his hands on account of the revenues.

42. It was on these grounds we directed an enquiry to be made, and though it has not been proved that Mahomed Reza Khan was intentionally oppressive in collecting grain, or that he reaped pecuniary advantages from that article in the time of the famine, yet to those persons who suffered by his measures, the interference of him and his agents was at times a real grievance, and a sufficient ground for their complaint, ignorant as they must have been of the directions of the Governor and Council to Mahomed Reza Khan to use his utmost endeavors to procure grain for the use of the city of Moorshedabad, and for the subsistence of the troops.

43. In regard to the Dacca revenue we have already declared that the different reports of our Governor and Council from time to time, have been unsatisfactory to us and we are far from being convinced by the materials now before us that Mahomed Reza Khan is not indebted to the *Circar* in a very considerable sum, or that he ought not to be compelled to fulfil the engagement entered into for the *chucklah* of Dacca. The general words under the handwriting of Meer Jaffier, supposing both the papers authentick, are of little importance and can never be construed to annul the positive agreement, which appears under the seal of Mahomed Reza Khan, and as to his plea of having executed that instrument by compulsion merely to gain time and to save his life, it wants every necessary proof to render it effectual.

44. Under these circumstances, and because we find the Nabob Meer Jaffier, at the time of his death, indebted to the Company in the sum of rupees 16,69,758, we cannot deem ourselves warranted to cancel the obligation in question, but in consideration of the inconveniences which Mahomed Reza Khan may have experienced during the time of his examination we direct that you suspend our claim for the arrear of the Dacca revenue.

45. After declaring ourselves thus favorably on the case of Mahomed Reza Khan we have only to add that as we wish him to remain under no other obligations to us than those of gratitude, we, therefore, can have no objection to his total enlargement.

46. The conduct of Nundcoomar, in the part he has taken against Mahomed Reza Khan, appears to us so very inconsistent and unworthy that we feel a repugnance to the continuance of his son in the high office of *Roy Royan* of the province; and as the acquittal of Mahomed Reza Khan warrants us again to employ him, we direct that if he can with

propriety accept of that office, under the regulations and restrictions established by our President and Council, and with the salary granted to Rajah Goordass for executiag the same, he be forthwith appointed thereto, and receive a proper *khellaut* and such other marks of distinction as are usually conferred on natives on like occasions. We mean not by this appointment to restore Mahomed Reza Khan to any improper degree of power but merely to testify our satisfaction, on finding his former conduct has been so much better than we expected.

47. And in regard to Rajah Goordass, though we cannot consent to his remaining *Roy Royan* of the province, yet in consideration of the favorable character we have received of him, we have no objection to his being appointed to any office of less importance, if you shall be of opinion that his behavior has entitled him to such a mark of our indulgence.

48. It is also with pleasure we confirm the appointment of Kullyan Sing, Rajah Shitabroy's son, as *Naib* of Patna, and we hope the future conduct of Kullyan Sing and his assistants will justify our confirmation of his said appointment.

49. By letters received overland from our Select Committee at Fort William, dated the 14th and 19th of May 1774, we are informed of the defeat and death of Hafez Rhamet Khan, chief of the Rohilla's, and of the probability of that country being speedily subdued by Sujah-ul-Dowlah; and notwithstanding the pecuniary advantages which the Company have gained by the event, we are exceedingly concerned to find that our arms have been employed in the conquest of the Rohilla's, though we must confess the conduct of their chiefs, in refusing to fulfil their solemn stipulations with the Vizier, seems to have drawn upon them the calamities they have suffered.

50. After noticing the cautionary terms settled with Sujah-ul-Dowlah, previous to the march of our troops, we can have no doubt of his having fulfilled the conditions of the agreement by which he became entitled to our assistance, and had the object in view been extended no further than to compel payment of the forty lacks of rupees, due to the Vizier and to the Company for the protection afforded the Rohilla's, we should have had less objection to the measure, though we must confess it would have been much more agreeable to us if the Rohilla's had faithfully complied with their engagements, which were entered into for the immediate and mutual defence of the contracting parties, and in which also the interest of the Company was concerned.

51. In a political view we fear the late engagements with Sujah-ul-Dowlah are not altogether unexceptionable. However as they have been carried into execution we can only enjoin you to take especial care that the additional power acquired by the Vizier be prevented from operating to the detriment of the Company. We trust he is now enabled to repel the Marattas in that quarter, should they repeat their incursions, which petty states have not been able to do. His country must, therefore, be considered as a barrier to our own possessions, and the ideas of our having rendered

him respectable and our friendship being absolutely necessary to his future security can never be too much inculcated.

52. The Treaty of Allahabad compels us to assist the Vizier in defending his dominions in case they shall at any time hereafter be attacked, but in regard to new conquests, or to any warlike enterprizes beyond his own territories, we absolutely prohibit you from employing our troops on such expeditions on any pretence whatever.

53. We much approve the alteration made in the second article of the Treaty of Allahabad respecting the terms upon which our assistance is, in case of necessity, to be granted to Sujah-ul-Dowlah, as those terms were very inadequate to the service to be performed, and consequently very improper.

54. We find, by a letter from our President and Council dated the 15th March 1774, that the French continue to assert claims of absolute independence in Bengal, refuse submission to the laws and authority of the established government not only for themselves but for whomsoever they may please to term their dependents, that they claim an exemption from edicts issued for regulating the customs and commerce of the country, and insist on a right to establish new factories and independent jurisdiction wherever they please. We find also that they refuse to acknowledge the Nabob's authority and determine to appeal to the Company immediately whenever they deem their rights infringed. And as our servants have declared it impossible longer to temporize, and requested instructions from us on the subject, we shall here make such observations as occur to us on the claims of the French, and give such instructions as we think necessary for your guidance, in supporting the rights of the *Nazim* against their encroachments.

55. The Treaty of Paris is entirely silent respecting every claim above-mentioned. Great Britain only stipulates in that Treaty to restore to France, in the condition they then were, the different factories which that Crown possessed before the year 1749. No idea is suggested respecting internal privileges either of the French or English, but the relative situation in which we now stand to the natives of Bengal, renders it our duty to afford protection to their persons and security to their property.

56. The outrages committed upon the manufacturers by Europeans and persons in their interest, under pretence of *phirmaund* privileges, have determined us to assist the Government in preventing the abuse of those privileges, but in vain is a regulation of this nature attempted, if the natives are still to be unjustly harrassed by the French.

57. We are engaged by solemn stipulation at a large expence to support the *Nizamut*; and charged as we are with the defence of Bengal, we cannot consent to have the benefits of its commerce surrendered to our rivals, after they have been formally disarmed by the Treaty of Paris above-mentioned, of their power in that province.

58. Having submitted to prove our own debts by established forms of law in Bengal. and to recover them by regular process therein, we can

never contribute towards enslaving the natives by compelling them to yield an implicit obedience to the mandates of the French in matters of private property.

59. On the contrary we direct that you afford the country government all necessary assistance in the execution of such equitable laws as are or may be framed for the protection of the natives, the security of their property or for the better government of the provinces.

60. As to the erecting new factories, however, the French may affect to despise the Nabob; it is with him alone they are to treat on that subject, and should they at any time attempt to establish other factories than those possessed by France in 1749, we do not hesitate to direct that you forthwith apply to the Nabob and use your utmost endeavors to engage him to prevent all such establishments.

61. If the French persist in their contempt of the Nabob, it is our order that you decline, as much as possible, entering into a discussion of such of their complaints as shall be cognizable by the *Nazim* of the province, for so long as the English pay attention to His Excellency it cannot be expected that other Europeans should be permitted to disregard him and to trample upon his authority.

62. You are on no account, directly or indirectly, to obstruct the French in the recovery of debts when applied for by due course of law; for however desirous we may be of preventing the unjust and arbitrary imprisonment of the native manufacturer, it is by no means our wish to embarrass the just creditor in the prosecution of his right. And in this respect, as already signified, we claim no exclusive exemption for the Company but submit to the same process and modes of recovery as are appointed for all persons in Bengal without distinction.

63. In regard to the new arrangement, by which the French Governor of Chandernagore becomes the immediate servant of the Crown of France, we do not at present conceive that this measure can at all affect our interests; for whatever alteration they may think proper to make in the economy of their affairs, it will never be allowed that they can thereby acquire any right which they did not possess under their former administration.

64. As King's *Duan* we have a right to form regulations for the better management of the revenues and to insist upon payment of duties, and from this right we cannot recede, but we nevertheless direct that no new or additional duties be levied upon merchandize belonging to the French or to other European companies.

65. In regard to *chokeys* or places where customs are collected, it is our order that you establish them where you shall find it necessary and regulate them in such manner as shall, if possible, prevent all Europeans from evading the payment of such customs as have been usually claimed and received by the *Nazim* or *Duan* of the province. And as to permitting French *dustucks* to operate to that unlimited extent which may enable them, not only to conceal their own merchandize but also to cover the

goods of other persons and thereby to defraud the Government of its customs. It is an abuse of their privilege, detrimental to the revenue, injurious to the fair trader and by no means to be allowed.

66. Upon the whole we direct that you carefully distinguish between claims set up by the French and rights possessed by the French, as we are fully of opinion the former are not always warranted by the latter. No *phirmaund* can be supposed to render them independent of the government under which they live, nor to invest them with authority for oppressing the native subjects of that government. And in respect to the persons, property and factories of the French, notwithstanding their reiterated complaints against us, it is evident that English influence is the chief protection of all the inhabitants of Bengal ; that it contributes much to the security of Europeans especially, and renders them no longer liable to those frequent impositions and arbitrary exactions formerly experienced, and to which they would again be subject, were the country government to regain its vigour, but which it must be your care to prevent, without appearing more than is absolutely necessary as principals, in any disputes which may happen between the natives of Bengal and the subjects of any European prince or state in amity with Great Britain.

67. Since writing the above we have received a letter overland from our President and Council dated the 25th April 1774, informing us that Mr. Chevalier, the French King's commandant, has formally protested against them on account of Mr. Barwell's proceedings at Dacca. We do not find, by the advices before us, that our Governor and Council have acted at all improperly in that affair or that Mr. Barwell's conduct has rendered it inconsistent with the safety and honor of the French to remain at Dacca, but concur in opinion with our President and Council that other and more probable reasons may be assigned for the removal of the French from that factory. We, therefore, suspend our final judgment on the subject till we shall have received the French protest and the further observations of our Governor and Council thereon, observing only that we have no doubt but it will fully appear that the commercial disappointments of the French have not been occasioned by improper acts of Government, but that they may be, with justice, attributed to general and obvious causes which render it no longer possible from the profits of commerce alone to support the charges of expensive establishments.

68. In addition to the above we have only to direct that you transmit to us, by every proper conveyance, such materials, well authenticated, as shall enable us to rectify misrepresentations and fully to refute unjust charges, if such should be transmitted to Europe against the English East India Company.

69. In committing this interesting subject to your attention it is with peculiar satisfaction we assure ourselves that the proceedings of our President and Council for three years past will not only furnish you with such general lights as may be necessary for your immediate information but also enable you to give speedy and decisive answers to all improper

claims which may be urged by the French respecting their commercial privileges in Bengal. •

70. In this packet we transmit for your information our counsel's opinion on the case of Rajah Kissenhund who was arrested at the suit of Mr. Lushington, and we approve the conduct of our President and Council in bailing the Rajah for the reasons given by them in their General Letter of the 10th November 1773.

71. We also transmit for your information copy of a petition received from Gunga Bissen and direct that no undue influence be permitted to operate to his hindrance in the prosecution of any suit which he may think proper to institute for the recovery of the debts therein specified.

72. The plan adopted for the salt districts and the regulations formed for the management of the opium trade at Patna appear to us very proper, but as a late Act of Parliament has rendered it unlawful for the subjects of Great Britain to trade in salt, beetlenut and tobacco in Bengal, and as we apprehend this prohibition may materially affect the property of such European merchants as have already purchased salt at our sales, we recommend it to you to adjust all affairs relative thereto in an equitable manner, and to yield the merchants every temporary indulgence in disposing of their stock of salt on hand, which can be allowed them consistently with the Act abovementioned.

73. The division of the provinces into six large districts, as settled by the Council of Revenue, appears to us a judicious arrangement, but as our Governor and Council have declared it only a preparatory measure to a more permanent system we must leave the accomplishment of such system to your judgment and prudence, subject however to our final approbation or disallowance.

Fifthly, of buildings and revenues

74. The resolution of the Board of Inspection to dispose of the Company's houses at Dum Dum and Barrasut, and of other buildings mentioned in their Proceedings of the 17th November and 19th November 1773, has our approbation and it is our order that all other houses belonging to the Company and not occupied by our special direction, or as offices for transacting publick business, be in like manner surveyed, valued and sold by auction to the best bidder.

75. In the Proceedings above referred to, we observe, it was the opinion of the Board of Inspection that the office of Civil Architect should be abolished as no longer necessary; we, therefore, direct that the salary affixed to that office be forthwith discontinued.

76. The impropriety of exempting private letters from all charges of postage being very evident, and the abuse of that privilege having occasioned great inconveniences by loading the *dawks* or letters carriers with packages of unreasonable weight and of very little importance, we are well pleased to find that the evil has been, in some degree, removed by adopting

the plan of Governor Hastings for establishing a general post office, and therefore confirm the regulation observing only that as our Governor has in a comparative view of former charges with those of the said plan, estimated them at the highest amount possible, and seems to be of opinion that they may afterwards be retrenched, you will not fail to accomplish the reduction suggested by our President so soon as circumstances shall admit thereof.

*Sixthly and seventhly, of covenant and military
servants and accounts*

77. Mr. Robert Gregory junior, appointed a writer by our General Letter of the 7th April 1773, proceeds to his station in the *Godfrey*, but Mr. John Wilkinson, who was appointed at the same time, has resigned the service.

78. We have appointed the undermentioned gentlemen to be writers upon your establishment, who are to take rank in the following order, vizt., Messrs. Edward Hay, John Lewis Auriol, John Whitelock and John Willes. The ships they proceed in will be notified to you by lists in the respective packets, and you are as usual immediately on their arrival to make enquiry whether they meet with proper treatment in their passage and advise us thereof.

79. We have noticed the specimen of Mr. Burrish Crisp's Persian writing transmitted by our President and Council, and shall consider their application, on his behalf, whenever it shall be hereafter found necessary to appoint writers for Bengal.

80. Being well satisfied of the abilities of Mr. William Platell for improving the investment of raw silk in Bengal, we have appointed him a Superintendant for that purpose, with a salary of £ 200 per annum and we direct that on the death or removal of Mr. Wiss or Mr. Robinson, he then receive the same salary and allowances to which either of those persons is now entitled by our orders.

81. Mr. George Williamson formerly in our civil service under your Presidency, who has our permission to proceed to and remain in Bengal for three years to settle his private affairs, has presented to us proposals for improving and increasing the manufactures of silk in Bengal; copies whereof are sent in the *Godfrey* and *Nottingham's* packets.

82. We have attended to the memorial of Mr. John Stewart, Secretary to our President and Council, suggesting, "that in consequence of the speedy Administration of Justice by the Court of Appeals, he feels the great source of his Emoluments dry up, and that by other new and useful Regulations, his particular Advantages are diminished." Upon examining, on this occasion, the amount of Mr. Stewart's fixed salary and emoluments, we find it upwards of two thousand pounds per annum, and that it exceeds the salary allowed to the President of our Board of Trade, and although contingent fees, as he observes, may not occur so frequently as heretofore yet as no specifick article is diminished, we cannot allow that the whole are

rendered insignificant, but, on the contrary, must be of opinion that they will continue to make a considerable addition to Mr. Stewart's settled income so long as he remains Judge Advocate and Secretary to the Council. We are, therefore, concerned to observe that he deems his present situation ineligible in point of emolument and expects us to find some other mode of recompensing his services; for without derogating in the least from those services we are constrained to say that we think sufficiently rewarded by his present appointments, and therefore, cannot consent to make him any additional allowance whatever.

83. However desirous we may be to render the clergy respectable we see no cause to increase the emoluments of our Bengal chaplains, and as we have, on a former occasion made a very considerable addition to their salary we hope they will rest satisfied with their present advantages.

84. The improvement of our Bengal manufactures is an object of so much importance that we are determined to shew every proper mark of our approbation to those who contribute thereto. And having read with pleasure the testimonials of our different warehousekeepers in favor of the conduct of Mr. Cotes during his residence at the *aurungs* of Keerpoy and Hurrypaul we direct that our Board of Trade continue to employ him in such a situation as shall enable him still to render us his best services in the provision of our investment; and also that they make him such recompense for his assiduity as shall stimulate others to copy after his example.

85. And as we are not less attentive to the merits of those of our servants who distinguish themselves in other departments, we, therefore, direct that proper encouragement be given to Mr. Auriol, Assistant Secretary to our late Council, and to Mr. Baugh, Clerk to the Board of Inspection, whose particular services have induced our Governor and Council to recommend them to our favorable consideration.

86. We approve that attention to our service which is manifested by General Clavering, Colonel Monson and Philip Francis Esqr. in their letter of the 12th April 1774, recommending the appointment of an attorney or advocate general to act as counsel for the Company in suits or prosecutions before the new Court of Judicature, and to assist our Governor General and Council with his advice in their proceedings; we do not conceive that such an officer is immediately wanted on our part at Fort William, but if experience shall hereafter evince the necessity of the measure, we shall then take the subject into our further consideration.

87. We have received a letter from General Clavering, dated at Madeira the 24th April 1774, recommending to us the appointment of an Adjutant General to our forces in India, which appeared to us a measure of such importance that we thought it proper to collect the opinions of all the general officers in England, who have served the Company in India, respecting the propriety and use thereof, and after the most mature consideration of their different opinions resolved that the office of Adjutant General was not only expedient but necessary, and

the Court of Proprietors, having in February 1774, recommended it to us to make suitable provision for Colonel James Stewart in the service of Company, when a convenient opportunity should offer, without unjustly superseding any of our officers or servants it was agreed to appoint him Adjutant General of our forces in India. But as the office was new, and as the Company's by-laws restrain the Court of Directors from creating any new office, either at home or abroad with a salary exceeding one hundred pounds per annum, without the approbation of the Court of Proprietors, it became necessary to submit his appointment and salary of £3,000 per annum (which was in full of all allowances, of commission on the revenues, perquisites, *batta*, field expences, emoluments, and all considerations whatever) to their determination; and a question being put thereon, by ballot, in the General Court in December last it passed in the negative, as did also the following question on the 3rd January last, namely "that the Company having appointed a Commander-in-Chief of all their Forces in the East Indies, it is the opinion of this Court that an Adjutant General of the said Forces be appointed." This being the sense of a very considerable majority of the Proprietors, and taken in the most deliberate and solemn manner, we direct that no such officer as Adjutant General to all the Company's forces in the East Indies be appointed. And as we cannot consistently with the above by-law confirm the late appointment of Major Hannay by our President and Council to be Adjutant General in Bengal with the pay and allowances granted by them, we, therefore, direct that the duty of such office be executed as hath heretofore been done, and that an addition of £100 per annum be made to the pay and allowances of such officer as shall perform the same, which is to be in full and in lieu of emoluments, perquisites and considerations whatever.

88. Although we do not consider the appointment of Mr. Nathaniel Middleton to reside at the Vizier's court, with the salary and allowances annexed to that appointment, as falling directly under the restriction above alluded to, we nevertheless disallow the payment of the said salary. And if at any time hereafter it shall be requisite to station any of our covenant'd servants, either constantly or as temporary residents at Sujah Dowlah's court you may allow captain's *batta* for travelling charges and table expences, but you are not to affix any salary to that station. The necessity of the measure and the services performed must be represented to us and we shall then consider what gratuitous recompense it may be proper to make for such service.

89. Mr. George Lackville Browne appointed a cadet for your Presidency by our General Letter of the 13th April 1774 is upon his arrival in Bengal to take rank agreeable to that appointment.

90. Captain Patrick Duff of the corps of artillery at your Presidency, who came to England for the recovery of his health returns to his duty by the way of Bombay, has presented a memorial to us desiring redress respecting the supercession, he alleges, he has suffered during his services on your establishment, as stated in a case annexed to his memorial copy

whereof is enclosed, that it may be referred to the consideration of the Board of Field Officers appointed for enquiring into and examining all memorials from captains and subalterns respecting rank and to report to you the merits of his case with their opinion on the same, and we direct that you do assign him such rank as shall appear to be just and equitable subject however to our final approbation.

91. In our letter to you dated the 30th March 1774, paragraph 69, we fixed the number of field officers who were to be allowed shares of the commission upon the revenues of Bengal to three colonels, eight lieutenant colonels and eleven majors; we hereby confirm the said regulations, and direct that no supernumerary lieutenant colonel receive a larger share of commission than he would be entitled to as major and also that the younger majors be wholly excluded till the field officers shall be reduced to the number fixed by our establishment.

92. We have received the memorial of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Deane Pearse setting forth his affliction on reading our orders of 1768, and complaining of the restrictions therein contained, but see no reason to depart from the system established, by the orders abovementioned, and therefore cannot comply with the prayer of the memorialist.

93. Observing that the Board of Field Officers were unanimous in their opinion that Mr. Gardiner should rank before Mr. Penman in our corps of engineers and finding our President and Council of contrary sentiments, we direct that you examine the proceedings of our said board of officers of the 13th May 1773, and of our President and Council of the 13th February 1774, relative to the rank of those two gentlemen, and that you finally adjust the same according to the merits of the case as it shall appear to you upon such examination.

94. We acquiesce in the opinions of our President and Council and board of officers that cadets have no rank; but we cannot allow cadets or officers made by our Governors in the country to take rank of those who received an earlier appointment from the Court of Directors. It is therefore our order that every officer whose admission into the service as cadet or officer, was not by the authority of the Court of Directors, take rank below the youngest of our cadets of the year in which he received his appointment.

95. We confirm the resolution of our board of officers respecting the ensigns appointed from the 2nd October 1769 to the 10th May 1770, and direct, that they continue to rank according to the arrangement made by that board in their Proceedings of the 14th May 1773.

96. However desirous we may be to bury in oblivion the association of 1766, or to gratify the reasonable expectations of any of our officers whose conduct since that period has been to our satisfaction, yet as the requests of Captains Baillie, Bruce and Home and Lieutenants Mattocks and Robertson would, if granted, occasion an immediate supercession of many officers, whose behavior has merited our entire approbation, we cannot consent to restore the memorialists to that rank which they might

have now held in the service if they had never resigned their commissions.

97. We can grant no relief to Captain Crawford and Lieutenant Hamilton in the cases referred, to us by our President and Council, respecting the pay and *batta* supposed to be due to them in consequence of alterations made in their rank by the Board of Field Officers. Those persons who have for a time done duty in stations superior to their present rank have also received the pay and emoluments annexed thereto, and we can neither expect them to refund nor agree that the Company should suffer loss by any adjustments of pay and *batta*, nor by any such regulations established by the said Board of Field Officers.

98. The friends of Ensign Archibald Edmonstone having represented that he suffered in his rank upon his arrival, from the Board of Field Officers being of opinion that the certificate he produced related to a commission in a militia regiment and therefore, did not entitle him to rank in the army and having produced to us a letter from His Majesty's Secretary at War, wherein it appears that the officers of the sencible men of Argyleshire and Sutherland are appointed by His Majesty, and are consequently entitled to rank with his officers agreeable to their commissions; we, therefore, enclose the abovementioned letter and direct that it be referred to the Board of Field Officers to examine the same and grant him the relief he shall be justly entitled to.

99. We have permitted Mr. Hamey Charles Palmer, an ensign upon your establishment to return to his duty in the ship *Hillsborough* without prejudice to his rank.

100. As we find that Mr. Robert Dunkley (who went on the ship *Hillsborough* as a serjeant) is of a good family and has served as a non-commission officer in one of His Majesty's regiments with reputation, we direct that he be promoted to a commission in your military when all the cadets already appointed by us shall have been provided for.

101. The friends of Serjeant Peter Burrowes of the 2nd battalion in the third regiment in Bengal, having requested his discharge we have complied therewith and direct that he be discharged accordingly on his paying £20 into your treasury.

102. Observing that the pay and allowances of our military in the last return from Bengal are stated in *sonant* rupees we must remark that if our army be actually paid in that specie of rupees, while *siccas* bear their present nominal value, we lose nearly four and a half per cent upon the whole amount of their pay; but if on the contrary *siccas* are issued to the army and the difference of *batta* deducted the troops must inevitably experience the like loss and inconvenience; therefore, although we have in a former letter communicated our ideas at large on the coinage of Bengal, we think it proper to renew our recommendation of the subject to your early consideration and hope you will be able, without inconvenience, to establish an equitable rupee for the province, with a *batta* proportioned to its real value, when compared with the fine silver contained in other rupees which are allowed to pass current therein.

103. The office of Auditor and Comptroller of Offices as established by our Council of Revenue, appears to us absolutely necessary, and we direct that the Auditor's reports on the monthly accounts of each office and subordinate factory be continued, and not only regularly entered on your Consultation but also copied into a separate book to be kept for that purpose, and that broken sets be transmitted by every ship, and a compleat set at the end of the year, with an index to the same for our information.

104. We also direct that monthly reports be made to you by the Commissary General stating all army disbursements, as well as regular pay and *batta* as incidental expences and also sums expended on the fortifications, and noticing particularly every increase or decrease of monthly contingent charges together with reasons at large for such increase and decrease.

105. We highly approve the proceedings of our President and Council as a Board of Inspection and direct that all regulations which have been made by that Board, tending to retrench the civil charges of our Presidency of Fort William and subordinate factories or to reduce military, marine, hospital or contingent expences be observed, and they are hereby declared to be standing orders, not to be departed from but on the most evident necessity.

106. The regulations of our Council of Revenue of the 23d November 1773, prohibiting occasional superintendants and military officers from lending or borrowing money, and from trading in the districts where they may be stationed, and also the latter from detaching seapoys beyond their quarters, except on actual military service, appear to us so necessary and expedient, that we not only confirm the same but direct that they be strictly observed in future as standing orders of our Presidency.

107. We direct that the *aurung* charges at Luckipore reported by Mr. Reed not well founded, be fully investigated if not already done, and that if the Company has suffered an unjust imposition of three per cent upon the investments, as suggested by Mr. Reed, you take such steps as shall be effectual for bringing delinquents to justice, and for the preventing of all such gross impositions in future.

108. As your Sub-Accountant has reported that the sum of rupees 4,203 appeared due to Ramnaut Misser on the general books in the year 1750, and as that sum corresponds with the amount specified by Ramnarin Misser, we can have no objection to his receiving the same, provided he shall prove to your satisfaction that he is the son or legal representative of the deceased, and provided also that no circumstance appears on your books to invalidate his claim.

109. If Mr. Grueber's interest note for rupees 4,000 was payable only to the obligee, and not negotiable, we direct that you grant him a new bond for the amount upon his giving sufficient security to indemnify the Company against the said interest note, and against all actions, costs,

and damages relative thereto, and also to deliver up and cancel the same in case it shall at any time come into his possession.

110. Lieutenant Colonel Munro having requested us to allow him interest on the two lacks of rupees, which the Nabob consented to pay him for the *jaghire* granted him by the Mogul, we have duly considered the said request, and being fully sensible of the essential services which Colonel Munro has rendered the Company in India, and of the inconveniences he has sustained by the delay of remittances through the Company's cash for sums lodged by him in their treasury in Bengal, we direct that you pay to the attornies of Lieutenant Colonel Hector Munro, interest after the rate of eight per cent per annum upon the two lacks of rupees which the Nabob Jaffier Ally Khan was to have paid to him for the *jaghire* granted him by the Mogul and which the Colonel gave up to the Nabob; and it is our pleasure that such interest do commence from the 1st January 1770, and cease from the time that the first payment of twenty five per cent of the capital was made; and that the principal which shall from time to time remain unpaid, do bear such reduced interest only as the Company's bonds since issued at your Presidency shall carry, until the whole of the aforesaid two lacks of rupees shall be discharged, and that thereupon the entire interest which shall have accrued on the said principal be paid to the Colonel's attornies and remitted through the Company's cash by bills of exchange, according to such provisions as shall be hereafter made by the Court of Directors.

111. We further direct that when the principal sum and interest beforementioned shall have been fully paid to the Colonel's attornies in Bengal, from the savings out of the Nabob's stipend, and after the several sums to which the said fund is applicable (by our orders of 10th April 1771) shall be wholly discharged, the sum of fifty thousand rupees be then paid to the attornies of Colonel Hector Munro for his use, as an acknowledgement of his gallant and meritorious services and of the peculiar hardships he suffered in the Company's service in the East Indies.

112. But here we must observe that upon payment of the principal and interest as above directed, you are to require the attornies of Colonel Munro to deliver up to you all teeps or obligations of any kind which he may have received from the Nabob, for the two lacks of rupees or any part thereof, which the Nabob was to have given him in lieu of his *jaghire* as beforementioned.

113. In order to prevent, so far as may be, the commanders of our ships from sustaining inconveniences by the non-payment of the excess of their certificates, advised in our letter of the 23rd December last, we have given them the option either to receive the amount of such excess by their attornies in Bengal, with interest thereon after the rate which the Company's notes shall carry to be computed from the time of payment of their respective certificates here, for the other parts of the sums, to the time of the receipt of this letter in Bengal, or to have bills of exchange granted them for the said amount; and in the latter case the money is to be considered as

part of the sum to be received into your treasury, for draughts upon England^{*} in the season of 1776.

114. Captains Mears, Paul, Prince, Poynting, Scaly, Skottowe, Wm. Smith and the attorney to Captain Hoare, having signified their desire that the amount of the excess of their certificates may be received into your treasury for bills to be drawn upon us in 1776, you are, therefore, on the receipt of the certificates we have given them, to grant their attornies bills of exchange upon us, agreeable to the terms mentioned in the before-going paragraph.

115. Captain John Prince having endorsed the certificates we have given him for current rupees 4,717 on your treasury, payable to the order of Nathaniel Smith Esqr., we, therefore, direct that upon the said certificates being paid into your treasury you grant bills of exchange upon us payable to Nathaniel Smith Esqr., or order instead of Captain John Prince, on the terms mentioned in the preceding paragraphs. The said certificates are sent in these ships packets in order to comply with the above paragraph.

116. Our letter of the 30th March 1774, acquainted you of the appointment of Mr. Primrose Thomson to be a captain of infantry in Bengal and that he was to rank as such from the day of the arrival of the last ship of the season of 1774. Since that time Captain Thomson having had an opportunity of attending to many late improvements in military science, we recommend him to the particular notice of our Commander-in-Chief, and make no doubt but he will meet with such encouragement as shall appear to be due to his merit and application.

117. The opinion of our President and Council on Consultation the 30th October 1773, respecting the appointment of Mr. Macleane to the office of Commissary General, the particular definition of his duty and the settling of his salary and emoluments, are conformable to our orders and instructions on that subject; but we are concerned to find that the establishment fixed for that office greatly exceeds our intention, and that Mr. Macleane, in his address to our President and Council, has deviated in two very essential points from the letter and spirit of our said orders and instructions first by recommending an expensive establishment and secondly by suggesting an improper mode of providing contingent supplies.

118. We observe that the said establishment consists of :

- 1 deputy with major's pay and *batta*
- 4 assistants with captain's pay and *batta*
- 3 clerks at 200 rupees per month
- 2 do.....at 100.....do.
- 4 do.....at 150.....do.

besides occasional assistants; and we find the above officers are all recommended by Mr. Macleane, and the annual amount of their salaries and office charges, exclusive of his own pay and allowances, are stated at 79,800 rupees.

119. As we have no idea of the necessity of a Deputy Commissary

with major's pay and *batta*, nor of four assistants, with the pay and *batta* of captains, we direct that they be forthwith discharged and that Mr. Maclean be allowed only such clerks as you shall think necessary for keeping the accounts and transacting the business of his office, who are to be appointed from amongst our civil servants, not employed in any other department, and to have the same allowances as are usually made to assistants in the Accountant's office at Fort William, and we recommend the strictest frugality respecting the number of assistants to be so employed as aforesaid.

120. We are surprized to find that Colonel Maclean should have informed our President and Council that it was our intention to entrust him with the business of providing and furnishing us with any contingent supplies for the army, when it must have been evident that he was intended to be a check upon the provision of those supplies, and we are equally surprized and concerned to find that our President and Council, upon such information, have resolved, "That all contingent Supplies, not provided by contract, shall be furnished by the Commissary General", as he agrees to furnish them considerably cheaper than has been done theretofore.

121. Amongst the articles thus to be supplied we find Mr. Maclean specifies iron, steel, copper, brass, canvas, wax candles and wax cloth. It seems to us very unnecessary that the Company should allow a profit on any of the above articles as many of them are European exports and ought to be supplied from our own stores, but at all events it is very improper that the Commissary General should be permitted to furnish them on his own account; we, therefore, direct that you discontinue this mode of providing contingent supplies, and that on extraordinary occasions when the exigency of the service shall render it absolutely necessary to purchase any kind or quantity of military stores, otherwise than by contract, that they be purchased on the lowest terms possible by a proper person but not by the Commissary General and we also direct that the indents of the commanding officer for such stores, the stipulated price and the vouchers for delivery be always produced and submitted to your inspection and approbation before you pass the accounts in which they shall be contained; and we further direct that the Commissary General be absolutely prohibited from buying or selling any article of military stores on his own account or for his own emolument, directly or indirectly, on any pretence whatever.

122. But as it is probable that Colonel Maclean, in consequence of the late regulations of our President and Council, may have actually bought military stores with an intent to supply us in manner beforementioned we permit you, in such case, to receive the same at prime cost, if they shall appear proper for our service and if Mr. Maclean shall desire it, and to allow him interest upon the money for the time they shall have been in his possession.

123. We shall not permit the least deviation from our orders and instructions relative to the office of Commissary General; nevertheless if Mr. Maclean shall make it appear, after three years service, that he has

been the means of retrenching our military expences or of effecting savings to the Company we shall then consider what may be a proper recompence for his particular attention to our interest,* but we shall reserve to ourselves the power of rewarding such extraordinary services.

124. The very particular hardship sustained by Captain Delafield has not escaped our attention, and the testimonial given by Colonel Smith to Lord Clive, "that Lientenant Delafield had the merit of being the only Officer of the Regiment who had virtue enough to resist the entreaties and fortitude sufficient to withstand the threat of his brother officers," is so much to his honour that although we cannot grant him the relief solicited, without great inconvenience to the service, we are nevertheless desirous of showing our regard to an officer whose distinguished fidelity, at a time of general defection, justly entitles him to our esteem. We therefore direct that you forthwith pay to Captain Delafield the sum of two thousand rupees to buy him a sword, and that you also signify to him the favorable sense we entertain of his good and soldierlike conduct on the above alarming occasion.

125. The acquisition of ninety lacks of rupees from Sujah ul Dowlah, and the savings lately made by our President and Council, render the present time favorable not only for discharging great part of our debt, at interest in Bengal but also for effecting a reduction of the present high rate of interest upon such of our notes as shall remain unpaid after the application of the sums abovementioned.

126. And in order to contribute so far as in us lies to such reduction of interest, which we deem highly expedient, we have upon the most mature deliberation resolved that a certain proportion of your annual draughts upon us for three years, to commence the 1st day of August 1776 and from thence next ensuing, shall be appropriated towards facilitating the execution of that measure.

127. We are fully of opinion that many persons, whose property cannot be speedily and advantageously remitted to Europe, would prefer a reduced interest receivable in England to that of eight per cent per annum, payable in Bengal, and therefore for the accommodation of such individuals who shall conform to the following terms and conditions we direct.

128. That notice be given by public advertisement, in the usual manner, at Fort William and Calcutta within two days after the arrival of these our orders, and at every subordinate factory and at the head quarters of the troops, so soon afterwards as may be, that all persons possessed of Company's interest notes may receive the interest due thereon at our treasury, and exchange the said notes, any time within forty days after such publication, for other notes of equal principal value carrying interest after the rate of four per cent per annum.

129. That if all the Company's interest notes be not so exchanged, as aforesaid, within forty days, publick notice shall then be given, that a subscription will be opened by our Governor General and Council for a

loan of money to the Company at four per cent interest per annum, and that the said subscription shall commence at the end of the said forty days and continue open for twenty days and no longer.

130. That if a larger sum shall be subscribed than may be necessary for discharging the remainder of such interest notes, as aforesaid, every subscriber shall be entitled to an equal proportion, according to the amount of his subscription.

131. That the amount of each subscription, or the adjusted proportion thereof, shall be paid into our treasury within thirty days after the books shall be closed ; and Company's notes carrying interest after the rate of four per cent per annum shall be issued for the same and dated according to the respective times of payment made into our treasury, as aforesaid. Which subscription money, so received, shall be applied in paying off and discharging the remainder of our notes carrying us higher rate of interest than four per cent per annum.

132. That for one hundred *sonaut* rupees paid into the Company's treasury, the subscriber shall be entitled to one interest note for one hundred and eleven current rupees, and in proportion thereunto for a larger amount; and for one hundred *Arcot* rupees, the subscriber shall be entitled to one interest note for one hundred and eight current rupees, and in proportion thereunto for a larger amount, and that *sicca* rupees shall not be received at an higher *batta* than *sonaut* rupees unless there shall be a difference between the intrinsick value of the *siccas* and *sonauts*.

133. That all silver rupees not particularly specified above shall be received at their real value when compared with that of the *sonaut* rupee.

134. That all payments to be made hereafter by the Company in Bengal, in discharge of interest notes so exchanged or money subscribed as aforesaid, shall be exactly conformable to the above regulation in respect to the proportions to be observed between the several species of rupees and the current rupee.

135. That bills of exchange shall, at the requisition of the proprietors of notes carrying four per cent interest, be issued annually by the Governor General and Council upon the Court of Directors, and made payable to the said proprietors or order, for the amount of all interest which shall be due thereon, and for so much of the principal, as shall, when added to the interest, render the said bills of exchange equal to one hundred and twenty thousand pounds sterling for each of the three years, to commence as aforesaid, but they shall not exceed that amount.

136. That all bills of exchange to be drawn, as aforesaid, shall be made payable on the same terms and conditions as have been granted for other bills of exchange, to be drawn upon the Court of Directors in the course of the ensuing season.

137. That so soon as the subscription shall be closed and the annual proportion to be remitted to England for three years by bills of exchange, as aforesaid, shall have been finally adjusted the Company shall be at liberty to pay off any part of the remainder of the principal of

the said interest notes, either in England or in Bengal, by such instalments as they shall find convenient, provided always that the amount of principal paid off and discharged before the expiration of three years shall not reduce the sum of principal and interest to be remitted in three years, as aforesaid, below the amount of three hundred and sixty thousand pounds sterling.

138. That three sets of bills of exchange, of like tenor and date, shall at the requisition of persons possessed of such interest notes, as aforesaid, be delivered to them before the dispatch of the last ship but one of each of the beforementioned three years respectively.

139. That the annual amount of draughts to be made payable to each proprietor of interest notes, shall be exactly in proportion to the value of interest notes in his possession at the time of drawing and not otherwise.

140. That whenever bills of exchange shall be issued, as aforesaid, by our Governor General and Council, the interest notes shall be publicly cancelled, and other notes bearing four per cent interest shall be granted for so much principal money as shall remain due to the proprietors respectively, after deducting the amount of the said bills of exchange.

141. That no bill of exchange shall henceforth be granted by our Governor General and Council to any person whatever who shall have money in the Company's hands carrying an higher rate of interest than four per cent per annum.

142. That before any part of the remainder of the principal shall be paid off by the Company in Bengal, as aforesaid, forty days notice shall be given by publick advertisement in manner abovementioned of the intention of the Governor General and Council to make such payment specifying what proportion it will bear to the whole of the said remainder of principal, and declaring that from and after the expiration of the said forty days, interest shall cease upon such proportion of the said principal, and also that the specifick payment to each proprietor will be exactly in proportion to the value of interest notes in his possession.

143. That if any part of the principal of interest notes to be exchanged or issued to subscribers, as aforesaid, shall remain unpaid at the expiration of three years, commencing as aforesaid, and if bills of exchange, in consequence of our orders, shall afterwards be granted by the Governor General and Council upon the Court of Directors then and in such case the proprietors of such interest notes shall be entitled to bills of exchange to the amount of fifty thousand pounds sterling per annum, including the annual interest of four per cent, until the whole remainder of principal shall be paid off and discharged, provided always that nothing herein contained shall prevent or be construed to prevent the Company from paying off and discharging the remainder of such principal, or any part thereof, in Bengal at any time after the expiration of three years beforementioned.

144. And we further direct that an entire copy of the above regulations be published in the advertisement first abovementioned, within two days after the arrival hereof at Fort William.

Supplement

145. The removal of Capt. Forde from the command of the *Syren* snow, by our Chief and Council at Balambangan without any shadow of complaint being alleged against him, has been entirely disapproved by us ; and therefore in case Capt. Forde shall be returned to Bengal, and not have obtained the command of some other vessel in our service, we recommend him to your notice as a man who has been a great sufferer in consequence of being removed from the command of the *Syren*.

146. We have permitted Mr. Charles Inglis to return to the East Indies to practise as a surgeon, and he has entered into an engagement to serve either as a surgeon or assistant surgeon where his services may be wanted and approved.

147. Being extremely well inclined to comply with the application of the friends of Mr. Henry Chichley Plowden and Mr. Joseph Cator employed in your civil establishment, whose abilities have been represented to us in a favorable light, we recommend them to your particular attention.

148. The very honorable mention made of Mr. William Boughton Rous by our Council of Revenue in their letter of the 15th March 1774, gives us much satisfaction. We are not certain how far the jurisdiction of the court of *zemindar* in Calcutta may be compatible with the powers to be exercised by the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William, but in case it should be thought proper to abolish the said court of *zemindar*, we direct that you avail yourselves of the abilities of Mr. Rous and particularly of his great knowledge in the Persian language and that he be employed in such station as shall enable him to exert his abilities for the benefit of the Company.

149. Having considered the pleas of some respectable friends of Mr. David Vanderheyden, one of our covenanted servants in Bengal, who for several years carried on a very considerable branch of business in the mercantile line, and is of advanced years, you will in consideration of his merits and abilities, give him such encouragement as he shall appear to deserve.

150. Major John Smith having preferred an application to us of a particular and intricate nature, as per copy enclosed, complaining of injury (as he alledges) in point of rank, you are upon his arrival, to take his case into consideration and determine thereon in such manner, as shall appear equitable and just.

151. We have appointed Mr. William Dixon Bainbrigg to be Lieutenant-Fire worker in our corps of artillery at Bengal to rank as such from the time of his arrival, and he accordingly takes passage on one of the ships of the season.

London,
3rd March 1775.
[Per *Godfrey*]

We are,
Your affectionate friends,
Edwd. Wheler/John Harrison/Jn.
Woodhouse / Wm. James / Fredk.
Pigou/T. B. Rous/Chas.Boddam/
Pet. Lascelles / Joseph Sparkes/
John Smith/W. G. Freeman/Rd.
Hall/J. Stables/George Tatem.

Enclosure

Whether Rajahs have privilege for their persons against arrests, I don't know, but as the General Letter from Bengal of the 10th November 1773 apprehends that the circumstance of arresting Rajah Kissen chund may have a pernicious effect, and that it is the first instance of a Rajah being arrested or being made amenable to the Mayor's Court, it was very unjustifiable in Mr. Lushington to interrupt in so gross a manner a *zemin-dar* at the Presidency to which he was summoned on the business of his *zemindary*, and as the servants of the Company should not be suffered to prefer their private interest in contempt of the advantage and authority of Government, I am of opinion that Mr. Lushington should be directed to discharge his action immediately, and that it should be made a standing order of the Presidency and properly promulged that no servant of the Company on pain of dismission shall lend money to the *zemindars* or have any money dealings with them, and those who have claims against them must, if necessary, recur only to the courts of the country for redress.

Signed. C. Sayer
3rd August, 1774.

LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 1775

Orders for immediate recall of troops from Rohilla country—distant expeditions to be avoided.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since we wrote to you under date of the 3rd instant, we have received two letters from our President and Council of Fort William, dated the 22nd August 1774, and also a letter from our Select Committee dated

the 24th of the same month.

2. The above advices were sent by the *Hawke* sloop by way of Fort St. George, which vessel arrived at the Cape of Good Hope the 30th December last, and they were brought from thence by His Majesty's ship *Intrepid*.

3. By the abovementioned letter from our Select Committee we are informed, a brigade of our troops, which by former advices were expected to have been returned within our provinces, had nevertheless, at the solicitation of Sujah-ul-Dowlah, penetrated into the center of the Rhohilah country on the opposite side of the Ganges. The above advices cannot but alarm us exceedingly more especially when we attend to the situation and circumstances of the neighbouring powers, and are informed in the same letter of the steps taken by the King, and the probability there is of the Marattas being sufficiently disengaged from their intestine broils, to turn their arms against our possessions if they shall deem it for their interest to commit depredation therein.

4. Under the above circumstances we could not omit the present opportunity of testifying our concern on finding so considerable a part of our army at such a distance from our territories, and so employed as to render it difficult for them to repair within the provinces in time to prevent the ravages of an enemy, in case the tranquility of Bengal should be suddenly interrupted.

5. We therefore direct that you on no account permit our troops to remain beyond the line of defence originally settled with Sujah-ul-Dowlah, but that you forthwith take measures for their recall in case they shall not be returned before the arrival of these our orders.

6. And as the hazard to which our possessions are exposed by undertaking such distant expeditions, is, as appear to us, very great, and the measure so very repugnant to every idea of sound policy, we hereby absolutely restrict you from all attempts of this nature in future; and we positively direct that you never more consent to employ our troops beyond the limits of our own provinces or those of our ally Sujah-ul-Dowlah, including therein such territories only as we are by treaty obliged to defend, in case his dominions shall at any time be actually invaded.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,
Edwd. Wheler/John Harrison/
T. B. Rous/Nath. Smith/Pet.
Lascelles/Chas. Boddam/W.G.
Freeman / Jno. Michie / Wm.
James/Jn. Woodhouse/George
Cuming/George Tatem/Joseph
Sparkes / Samuel Peach/John
Smith/Rd. Hall.

London,
7 March 1775.

LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1775

Payments to Company's servants —new appointments.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The ships *Nottingham* and *Godfrey*, which sailed from Spithead the 21st and 23rd March, conveyed to you our letters dated the 3rd and 7th preceding ; the triplicates thereof you will herewith receive by the ship *Grenville* consigned first to Fort St. George to accommodate the Right Hon'ble Lord Pigot with a passage to that Presidency, from whence she is to proceed to Bombay agreeable to her original destination.

2. We also transmit you by this conveyance copies of all letters which have been sent to our settlements since we wrote you and direct that you conform thereto in every instance which requires your interposition.

3. Having received no information from Bengal whether the crew of the Company's ship *Admiral Watson* were paid off at the time of their discharge, we are unable to answer the enquiries of their relations and attorneys on that subject ; we therefore direct that you send us a very particular account of the wages of each person, who belonged to that ship, so far as such account can be made out, describing therein when and to whom any part of their wages were paid, the respective sums unclaimed, and whether the persons originally intitled thereto were dead or discharged at the time of payment thereof; and in order to yield you every information in our power, we have sent a list of the officers and seamen who were on board the *Admiral Watson* the 13th November 1767, which was the time of her departure from Plymouth.

4. Mr. William Platell having engaged to pay sixty pounds a year of his salary to Samuel Peach Esquire in London for the use of Mr. Platell's family, we therefore direct that you deduct the said sum annually from the payments to be made to him, on our account in Bengal.

5. Ensign Robert Anderson and Lieutenant-Fireworker Peter Young, who came to England with the permission of the President and Council, have had our leave to proceed to their duty without prejudice to their ranks, the first on the *Gatton* by the way of Bombay and the other on the *Coventry* man-of-war.

6. The friends of Lieutenant John Fraser, an old officer in His Majesty's navy, having applied to us in behalf of his son John Hullock Fraser, a boy well educated, who eloped from his friends and went as a common soldier to your Presidency in the *Godfrey*, Captain Reed ; If his behaviour has been to your approbation we recommend it to you to place him in the pilot service as he has been brought up to the sea,

7. We have given permission for twenty five persons on the civil establishment at Bombay above the degree of writers (on their requesting it) to proceed to Bengal and to rank in your list of covenant servants as writers of 1773, vizt. the senior Bombay servant who shall be so removed is to be stationed next below Mathew Leslie and the rest immediately afterwards according to seniority.

8. We have permitted Messrs. John Spencer, John Bebb and Charles Chapman at present writers upon the Bombay establishment, to proceed to Bengal, and to take rank as such in the above order next below Mr. John Willes.

9. Being informed of the death of Mr. Bonwicke whom we appointed Deputy Custom Master, and as Mr. David Cuming has been represented to us as a deserving man and who will according to our directions of the 7th January 1774, be obliged to give up Deputy Master Attendant to Mr. Sampson who went from hence, we direct that Mr. David Cuming be appointed to the place which Mr. Bonwicke held and to rank as he did, and that Mr. Frederick Doveton be appointed to the place now held by Mr. Cuming under the Master Attendant in Bengal.

10. The military recruits shipped on board the *Grenville* being designed for your Presidency, we have directed the President and Council at Fort St. George to cause them to be forwarded to Bengal by the first safe and proper conveyance.

11. In order to provide for a proper succession of able persons to keep the accounts of your Presidency, we have appointed Mr. Leonard Collings, who now resides at Calcutta with our license, to succeed to the post of Sub-Accountant next after Mr. Livius mentioned in our letter of the 10th December 1773, and exactly upon the same terms in respect to succession to the office of Accountant as we directed in our letter of the 7th April 1773 with regard to Mr. Wood.

12. Mr. John Mackenzie's health not admitting of him at present, to proceed to his station of a factor at your Presidency, we have permitted, him to remain in England till next season, without prejudice to his standing,

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Edwd. Wheler/John Harrison/
Jn. Woodhouse/Joseph Sparkes/
Fredk. Pigou/Wm. James/Henry
Savage/T. B. Rous/H. Fletcher/
Daniel Wier/Samuel Peach/Rd.
Hall/W.G. Freeman/W. Devaynes/
Pet. Lascelles/George Tatem/
Jn. Michie/John Stables/Chas.
Boddam/Jas. Moffatt/John Smith.

London,
12th April 1775.
[Per *Greenwich*]

LETTER DATED 15 DECEMBER 1775

New Secret Committee constituted—list of articles to be exported during 1776—importers of unregistered goods to be punished—sundry appointments.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. By the ship *Greenwich* we send triplicate of our letter the 12th April ; since writing that letter we have received the advices described in the lists of packets of the ships *British King*, *Dutton*, *Bute* and *Pacifick*.

2. We are also to acknowledge the receipt of the several letters sent by our Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant General Clavering.

3. As we have reason to hope that large investments will be provided by our several Presidencies and China, we have taken up a greater number of ships this season than we did last, and as we are not yet able from experience to ascertain the exact tonnage which our homeward bound ships can receive, we have thought it most eligible, for the present, to entertain the following ships upon the same terms and conditions in every respect as those of last year. Copies of the charterparties of ships consigned to your Presidency will be sent in their packets. The names of the ships and of their respective commanders, and the exact tonnage for which each of them is let to the Company and their consignments are as follow, vizt.

<i>Lord Holland</i>	804	Patrick Lawson	St. Helena, Bencoolen and China
<i>Greenwich</i>	522	Robert Carr	Coast and Bay
<i>Royal Henry</i>	804	Robert Rous	} Coast and China
<i>Earl of Sandwich</i>	804	Charles Deane	
<i>Norfolk</i>	723	James Buggin	
<i>Nassau</i>	633	Arthur Gore	Coast and Bay
<i>Prince of Wales</i>	627	Jonathan Court	
<i>Granby</i>	786	John Johnston	} Coast and China
<i>Lord Camden</i>	770	John Reddall	
<i>Fox</i>	758	David Mitchell	
<i>Shrewsbury</i>	592	Benjamin Jones	} Coast and Bay
<i>Lioness</i>	607	Thomas Larkins	
<i>London</i>	633	Daniel Webb	
<i>Duke of Grafton</i>	804	Samuel Bull	St. Helena and Bencoolen
<i>Duke of Cumberland</i>	627	Augustus Savage	} Coast and Bay
<i>Triton</i>	557	William Elphinstone	

<i>Latham</i>	627	John Prince	}	Bombay
<i>Hector</i>	602	Stephen Williams		

<i>Marquis Rockingham</i>	664	Alexr. Hamilton	'Bombay and China
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4. In our advices of last year we acquainted you with our intentions concerning the destination of the Company's snow *Syren*. This vessel was dispatched about eleven months since, but was obliged to put into Ireland to repair some damages she had received, from thence she was ordered to Falmouth and sailed from thence on the 18th November to pursue her original destination to Bencoolen and Balambangan.

5. The gentlemen whom we have constituted our Secret Committee for this year are John Harrison Esqr. our Chairman, John Roberts Esqr. Deputy Chairman, and George Cuming, John Manship, Frederick Pigou, Henry Savage and Edward Wheler Esqrs. and you are strictly to obey the orders of any three of them that may be addressed to you so far as regards the safety of our shipping.

6. It being customary to provide for tonnage that may be wanted in Bengal or at Fort St. George over and above the ships bound directly to Coast and Bay, we shall direct our servants at Bombay, upon such want being communicated to them, to send round to either of those Presidencies the ship *Latham*. You will therefore in case of necessity give timely notice to Bombay accordingly, and should the *Latham* by any unforeseen accident be prevented from proceeding round, the *Hector* will be ordered to supply her place on such service.

7. The consignment of seven ships from hence to China, and the *Galton* expected to arrive there in the next season, will render it necessary for you to afford assistance to our China Council, and we shall direct them to form their calculations upon a supposition that after the dispatch of the above ships from Canton, a surplus of not less than one hundred thousand pounds be left in their hands towards the purchasing of cargoes for the ships of the following season. We have also permitted our said Council to draw bills upon us by the two last ships now going thither, to such an amount at the rate of five shillings for each heavy dollar payable at twelve months sight without interest.

8. The management of the eight ships beforementioned is entrusted to Messrs. Edward Phipps, Francis Wood, Matthew Raper, James Bradshaw, William Henry Pigou, George Rogers, Abraham Roebuck, Henry Brown and John Harrison and those gentlemen (except Mr. Wood who is desirous of returning to England) are appointed our Residents in China for the year 1777.

9. The quantity of saltpetre we shall require to be sent from your Presidency and Bombay by the ships now going out be two thousand tons and you are to desire the Board of Trade to provide that quantity.

10. Having formed an arrangement of our annual export to our several settlements you are hereby acquainted that for the present season.

it will principally consist of the following particulars.

For Bengal: Cloth three hundred and sixty six bales, long ells seventy nine bales, copper one thousand one hundred and twenty tons, lead 160 tons, iron one hundred tons, gunpowder two hundred barrels, musquets eight thousand, forty eight bales of broad¹ long ells.

For Fort St. George: Cloth four hundred and twenty five bales, long ells twenty nine bales, copper three hundred tons, lead seventy tons, iron two hundred tons, gunpowder one thousand barrels of sixty pounds weight each, small arms three thousand.

For Bombay: Copper five hundred tons, lead one hundred and twenty five tons, iron one hundred and fifty tons, cloth six hundred and sixty three bales, one hundred and fifty three bales of long ells and thirty two bales of broad long ells.

For China: Cloth six hundred and eighty five bales, long ells one thousand two hundred and thirty seven bales, camblets twenty two bales of twenty pieces each, lead two hundred and eighty tons.

For Bussora: Two hundred and one bales of long ells of ten pieces each.

For Fort Marlborough: Fine iron twenty tons, gunpowder fifty barrels, lead five tons, and musquets three hundred.

11. The ships *Nassau*, *London*, *Granby*, and *Marquis of Rockingham* are to call at Madeira to receive four hundred pipes of wine for our Presidencies of Bengal, Fort St. George and Bombay, two hundred pipes thereof are intended for your Presidency, the invoices and bills of lading for which will be sent by our correspondents at that Island.

12. Enclosed you will receive a copy of an order of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council granting us liberty to export to St. Helena and our several Presidencies one thousand barrels of gunpowder, also our ordnance, small arms and other warlike stores to the amount of one thousand five hundred tons on the conditions mentioned in the said order. It will therefore be indispensibly necessary that you furnish us in triplicate so far as depends on you, with the certificates required that we may avoid the heavy penalty to which we are subject if the bond given to the Crown on this occasion should be put in suit, and we send in each ship's packet an exact account of the military stores for which bonds have been given that your certificates may correspond with the particulars inserted in the above-mentioned bonds.

13. Information being given to us that a considerable quantity of gold, silver and diamonds had been imported from the East Indies by the men-of-war lately arrived from thence, and lodged for safe custody in the Bank of England, we, in conformity to the right established by our Charter and confirmed by several acts of Parliament, have required that the same should not be delivered to the respective proprietors without our express permission nor until the Company's duties shall have been regularly paid.

14. Of the above articles, we were informed, several of them do not appear to have been registered, and we have undoubted proof that there

were considerable quantities of such like valuable property brought home by those ships unregistered.

15. These instances of misconduct in our servants, where the said unregistered goods were shipped, cannot but excite our utmost displeasure ; and had we sufficient evidence who were the particular persons guilty of the above practices, we should certainly have inflicted the punishment mentioned in our letter of 24th December 1765, respecting similar offences. It is our express direction that due obedience be paid to our orders in the said letter, and we declare that all who shall hereafter disobey them will experience our severest resentment, as we will never suffer so great a violation of the Company's rights to be made with impunity if it be possible for us to detect the offender.

16. As the commanders of the ships, freighted by the Company, now pay to their owners 15 instead of the sum of 10 for each passenger as formerly, and in consideration that the price of every necessary is greatly encreased we have permitted the commanders to receive, but upon no consideration to demand a larger sum than the undermentioned for the passage and accomodation at their table of persons proceeding to India, at their own expence in the following stations, vizt.

A general officer.....	£200
A member of Council or a colonel.....	150
A lieutenant colonel.....	120
Senior and junior merchants and majors each.....	100
Factors and captains each.....	80
Writers, lieutenants and ensigns each.....	70
Married ladies at the rates abovementioned according to the stations of their husbands.	
Single ladies the same as writers and a cadet.....	50

The like sums are to be paid for passengers homeward bound, who are under the necessity of coming to England for the recovery of their healths, as we have directed to be paid for their outward bound passage and you are to order such persons to be received on board and properly accomodated on the beforegoing terms.

17. The owners of our freighted ships having complained of the hazard to which their ships are exposed by letting them to private freighters without any restrictions whatever whereby their ships have been exposed to extraordinary risks, and being sensible of the justness of the owners' representation we hereby direct that if it shall be necessary for you to detain any ship in India a season conformable to charterparty, such ship must be taken from amongst the latter ships that arrive in the same season and employed if possible for the service of the Company. But if it should happen she cannot be advantageously disposed of on the Company's account, and there should be a necessity to let her out to private freighters to secure an equivalent for the demorage to be paid by the Company, we direct that the freighters be confined in their voyages to those places only where the Company have Residents, the two Coasts, Ceylon, Batavia,

Malacca and the Gulphs.

18. Mr. John Willes whom we appointed a writer for your Presidency last season takes his passage on the *Greenwich*, and on his arrival is to rank agreeable to our letter of the 3rd March 1775.

19. We have appointed the following persons to be writer at your Presidency who are to take rank in the undermentioned order, vizt. Mr. John Wombwell, Mr. Robert Orme Smith, Mr. Francis John Sykes, Mr. John Edward Harrington, Mr. William Edmonstone, Mr. Arthur Malony, Mr. John Guichard Booth, Mr. Robert Ireland, Mr. Patrick Heatly, Mr. James Miller, Mr. George Fletcher, Mr. A.E. Young, Mr. John Scott, Mr. Joseph Law, Mr. William Dent, Mr. Samuel Haselby, Mr. Alexander Duncanson, Mr. Ralph Leake, Mr. William Farquharson, Mr. John David Paterson, Mr. James Wordsworth, Mr. William Powell, Mr. William Bushby, Mr. George Francis Grand, Mr. Lind, Mr. John Charles Middleton, Mr. Charles Cockerell, Mr. Charles Newman.

20. The covenants of Messrs. Robert Orme Smith, Patrick Heatly, James Miller and Charles Newman who are at present in India, are sent in the packet of the ship *Greenwich*, and are to be duly executed by those gentlemen and returned by the first ship.

21. In our General Letter of the 30th March 1774, we recommended Mr. John Rosewell who had been removed from the office of Naval Storekeeper on the appointment of Mr. Page Keble for some suitable provision, to which recommendation we expect due attention has been paid.

22. We observe by your letter of the 24th February last, that you had appointed Mr. William Larkins to fill the post of Sub-Accountant upon Mr. Levius's declining it, which post by our letter of the 12th April following we had directed to be occupied by Mr. Leonard Collings. Although we are sensible of the abilities of Mr. Larkins for the office of Sub-Accountant yet as we cannot consent to any person being appointed thereto but upon the express terms on which Mr. Collings was appointed, and as we suppose that Mr. Larkins will not choose to hold that office upon those terms, it is therefore our pleasure if he should refuse to continue in it that you in such case appoint Mr. Collings your Sub-Accountant immediately upon receipt hereof, but if Mr. Larkins should think proper to remain therein, we then direct that Mr. Collings do succeed to the office of Sub-Accountant upon the first vacancy.

23. We disapprove your explanation of our orders of 2nd February 1774 relative to the appointment of Mr. John Laird, our intentions respecting him being thereby frustrated. We therefore direct that on receipt hereof you forthwith admit Mr. Laird a full surgeon on your establishment, with the rank assigned him by us in our letter abovementioned.

24. Major John Smith now proceeds to his duty on board the *Greenwich*, you will therefore on his arrival consider his case according to our orders contained in the one hundred and fiftieth paragraph of the General Letter dated the third of March one thousand seven hundred and

seventy five.

25. Altho' by our letter, dated in March last, we left the decision of Lieut. Thomas Gardner's application, yet as the matter from a perusal of the minute of Consultation on the 30th May 1774, appears to us very fully elucidated, we have not the least doubt but you have long before this time fixed Mr. Gardner in the engineering corps, next before Mr. Penman, and that in consequence Mr. Gardner enjoys every emolument which such preferable rank may entitle him to.

26. The friends of Ensign Robert Gumley having represented to us that he has suffered greatly in the rank we assigned him, when he was appointed a cadet in the season of 1769, we direct that the Board of Field Officers do upon his application consider his case, and you are to give him that rank to which he shall appear justly entitled.

27. In order to confine the captains and officers of our freighted ships during the voyage to the sum of five thousand pounds, permitted by their instructions to be paid in cash at our Presidencies for certificates in conformity to the Act of the 13th year of His present Majesty and to put an end to the difficulties and inconveniences occasioned by the commanders obtaining certificates at different Presidencies for a larger amount than they are entitled to, you are not in future to receive any money from or grant certificates to any commander (unless yours shall be the first port of his arrival in India) until he shall produce authentick testimony of all sums paid into any of our treasuries in India during his then present voyage, or that he has paid no money into any of our said treasuries in India for certificates, and no ship is to be indulged with more than the stipulated sum calculated at the rate of exchange of which you are allowed to draw upon us; and you will from time to time advise such other of our Presidencies to which ships may be bound of all monies received by you for certificates, who are directed to govern themselves according to the tenor of these instructions.

28. For your information and notice we enclose a copy of Lord Chief Justice De Grey's opinion given in the Court of Common Pleas in a suit between Mr. Bolts and Captain Purvis, Commander of the *Valentine*.

29. The friends of Thomas Lee Neve having represented to us that he is, if living, become interested in a considerable estate now on sale and that his personal attendance, letter of attorney or a certificate of his death is necessary for the purpose of executing a joint conveyance, and making a proper title to such estate. That the said Thomas Lee Neve was in the year 1764 a drummer in Colonel Coote's Regiment and after the taking of Manila supposed to have been sent to Madrass and from thence to Bombay, that a report has been received of his falling overboard and being drowned on the Malabar Coast, that in 1769 such report was contradicted and information received that he was then entertained as a serjeant in our military in India, but not appearing in the lists transmitted to us, and his friends having desired to be informed whether the said Thomas Lee Neve is at present in our service in India or if not, whether

any authentick account can be obtained of his death, we direct that you make the necessary enquiry at your settlement and transmit to us the result of such enquiry, so soon as may be, for the information and satisfaction of the parties concerned in England.

30. Should Mr. Larkins decline continuing in the office of Deputy Accomptant on the terms and regulations which we have adopted for that office, and rather wishes to preserve his rising in the service in that case we recommend him to you for such an appointment as his merit and services shall deserve.

31. By our General Letter of 23d December 1774 we authorized you to draw upon us for one hundred and seventy five thousand pounds sterling, commencing 1st August 1775 and ending 31st July 1776, but we observe on closing the account, after proper notice given the money which had been paid into our treasury the 14th of February 1775 amounted to no more than £ 153,055-14-11½. We also observe that a reserve was made of £ 4,000 sterling for Mr. Michie and £ 500 for Mr. Pritchard, which sums not being paid into the treasury, it does not appear that bills were granted to those gentlemen.

32. The cash paid in by General Clavering, Colonel Monson and Mr. Francis, amounting to £ 9,900, renders the total of money received for bills of exchange for that year £ 162955-14-11½ and leaves a balance of £ 12,044-5-½, but if you have since drawn for the £ 4,500 above-mentioned, it reduces the unappropriated balance to £ 6,544-5-½.

33. By our orders of 3rd March you are directed to grant bills of exchange upon us for the excess of certificates paid in by sundry captains, which excess we find amounts to £ 3,793-9-0 sterling.

34. Although the unappropriated balance of the year 1775 exceeds the excess abovementioned we do not apprehend that the Act of Parliament empowers us to add the unclaimed balance of a former year to the next year's remittances.

35. We now direct that you draw upon us for one hundred and eighty thousand pounds sterling for the year 1776, at two shillings and one penny per current rupee but you are in no case to exceed that amount.

36. It is also our order that the above sum be divided in the following proportions, vizt.

For covenanted and military servants..	..	£ 10,000
For the estates of deceased persons..	..	3,000
For interest notes supposed to have been exchanged in consequence of orders of 3rd March 1775		120,000
For Lord Clive's <i>jaghire</i> .. ..	..	27,000
Robert Gregory Esqr. .. ..	..	1,500
John Stables Esqr. .. ..	..	1,500
The representatives of Wm. Watts Esqr. ..	..	1,500
Richard Becher Esqr. .. ..	..	3,000
Daniel Wier Esqr. .. ..	..	1,000

Thomas Rumbold Esqr.	2,000
Andrew Moffatt Esqr.	1,000
Sir Charles Raymond, (annually)	200
Mr. W. Price, on account of estate of his son	40
Mr. Anselm Beaumont	200
Thomas Martin's estate in Major Fortnom's hands	40
The representatives of Lieut. George Middleton	32
Colonel Munro	300
Mr. Borthwick	40
Mr. Geo. Mercer on account of Mr. Magee's estate	80
Mr. Jno. May	265
Executors of John Holme by Mr. Fletcher	200
Miss Ann Keene	100
Miss Forde	120
Capt. Archibald Swinton	400
General Smith	2,000
Mr. Thorne	100
John Manship Esqr. for Dr. Burn	350
Capt. Sellick's estate	80
Representatives of Brabazon Ellis	160
Excess of captains' certificates as	
per order 3rd March 1775	3793

Total £ 180,000

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

John Harrison/John Roberts/Wm. James/
G. Wombwell/Robt. Gregory/Jn. Michie/
Pet. Lascelles/Fredk. Pigou/Charles Boddam/
W. Devaynes/Thos. Rumbold/John Stable/
Edwd. Wheler/John Woodhouse.

London,
15th December 1775.

LETTER DATED 15 DECEMBER 1775

Concern over dissensions in Council—Court of Proprietor's resolution on Rohilla War—engagements with Shujaud-Daulah : background and general appraisal—Governor General censured for not placing Middleton's correspondence before Council—duties not to be levied in Company's investments—Board of Trade to take over sales of salt and opium—practice of letting banyans to farm lands to be discontinued—cession of Salsette and Corinja by Raghoba—Europeans in service of Nawab of Oudh.

1. While we were indulging the hope that so perfect an harmony would have prevailed amongst the members of the new administration in Bengal as is necessary to give vigor to the acts of Government, as well as dignity to your Councils, how great must our concern and disappointment be on finding that dissensions have arisen so early, and operated so far, as they appear to have done from the separate addresses of our Governor General and of the majority of the Board as well as from the minutes on your public records. We are far from disapproving a difference of opinion on any measure; on the contrary, we consider it as the duty of every member of your Board to express his sentiments with freedom on every subject. Our concern proceeds solely from observing a warmth of altercation, which threatens to destroy that mutual respect and confidence we were so solicitous to promote, when we recommended harmony among yourselves.

2. As the separate addresses of our Governor General and of the majority of Council to the Court of Directors, and of the latter to our late Chairman and Deputy Chairman, are entered upon your records, we shall consider them as proceedings or minutes of Council and as such reply to those particulars which require our observation, direction or determination; and herein we shall be guided by that equal regard which we bear towards every member of your Board, expressing our approbation of such measures as are right and reprehending those which appear to us deserving of censure, but before we proceed to those particulars we think it necessary to communicate to you the following resolutions, agreed to by a General Court of Proprietors held on the 6th instant, relative to sundry objects on which you have been divided.

Resolved unanimously, That notwithstanding the Court hath the highest opinion of the services and integrity of Warren Hastings Esqr. and cannot admit a suspicion of corrupt motives operating on his conduct, without proof, yet they are of opinion, with their Court of Directors, that the agreement made with Sujah Dowlah for the hire of a part of the Company's troops for the reduction of the Rohillah country, and the subsequent steps taken for carrying on that war, were founded on wrong policy, were contrary to the general orders of the Company, frequently repeated, for keeping their troops within the bounds of the provinces, and for not extending their territories, and were also contrary to those general principles, which the Company wish should be supported.

Resolved Unanimously, that this Court do agree with the opinion of the Court of Directors, that the whole correspondence between the Governor General and Mr. Middleton should have been laid before the members of the superior Council, who ought to have received every information respecting the transactions of the Company's agent at Sujah Dowlah's court, in order to regulate their conduct at that critical period.

Resolved, That this Court do agree in Opinion with the Court of Directors that it is necessary to wait the arrival of the *Anson*, or some further advices from Bengal, before a precise judgment can be formed, relative to the future Resources of that Presidency.

Resolved, That this Court do agree in Opinion with the Court of Directors, that the measure of recalling the troops from the Rohillah expedition, as soon as it could, be done with propriety, was agreeable to the spirit of the Company's general orders ; but considering the situation of affairs at that time, between the Company and Sujah Dowlah, and other circumstances, the Court think the recalling them so hastily might have been attended with inconveniences.

3. Having thus laid before you the sense of the proprietors at large on the above subjects, taken after the most candid examination of your records, we proceed to make such further observations and to give such orders and instructions as from the nature of your advices, and the situation of our affairs in Bengal, appear to us necessary.

4. We disapprove all such distant expeditions as may eventually carry our forces to any situation too remote to admit of their safe and speedy return to the protection of our own provinces, in cases of emergency.

5. We also utterly disapprove and condemn offensive wars, distinguishing, however, between offensive measures unnecessarily undertaken with a view to pecuniary advantages and those which the preservation of our honor, or the protection or safety of our possessions may render absolutely necessary.

6. The attention paid by the majority to the tenor and spirit of our orders on this subject is highly agreeable to us; and it is our most positive direction, that no deviation from those orders be permitted, but upon the most urgent and absolute necessity, as that alone can justify a departure from them for the prospect of any advantages, however alluring, can no wise be adequate to the pernicious consequences which must result from examples of disobedience to our orders.

7. The sentiments expressed by the majority in the 36th paragraph of their address coincide exactly with our own; their determination to endeavor to maintain peace in India and vigorously to defend our possessions and allies cannot be too much applauded, we therefore strictly enjoin every member of our Council to concur heartily in such measures as may be necessary for accomplishing these desirable purposes.

8. We have already in our letter of the 3d March 1775 expressed our extreme concern on finding that our arms had been employed in conquering the Rohillah country for Sujah Dowlah and disapproved the measures and we have no reason to alter our sentiments respecting that transaction.

9. We not only condemn the principle which eventually produced the Rohillah war, namely, the including of their country in the line of defence marked out for our Commander-in-Chief, as being contrary to the system we had adopted and repugnant to the general tenor of our orders; but we also totally disapprove the engagements entered into by our servants with Sujah Dowlah when Hafez Rhamet Khan had failed in the performance of his stipulations.

10. On a supposition that General Barker's sanction to the treaty

between Sujah Dowlah and the Rohillahs gave him a right to call upon us to see that treaty fulfilled, it is nevertheless evidently certain that every principle of policy forbade our servants to extend their views beyond the strict accomplishment thereof, and the obtaining of a proper indemnification for charges to be incurred in calling the Rohillahs to a just account ; and we think there was great probability that those salutary measures might have been accomplished without proceeding to hostilities. But in all events, instead of entering into an agreement with the Vizier, which left no room for accommodation with the Rohillahs, it was certainly the duty of our President and Council to have given an immediate and absolute refusal to all requisitions so injurious to the reputation of the Company, and especially for engaging in a distant expedition wherein want of success might have been attended with fatal consequences.

11. It is with great satisfaction we find, that although hostilities were commenced with an apparent determination to exterminate the Rohillahs, a more honorable end has been put to that war, and that a provision is made for the son of Hafez Rhamet Khan. This circumstance is the more agreeable to us as it seems to have been effected by the interposition of our Commander-in-Chief, and will, we hope, tend to efface any unfavorable impressions which the part taken by our servants against the Rohillahs must have occasioned amongst the natives of India.

12. The return of our troops from the Rohillah country is an event highly acceptable to us, and from the general tenor of your advices, we are led to hope that the money then due from Sujah Dowlah has been received; but if from unforeseen accidents payment of any part has been delayed we direct that you insist upon the discharge thereof.

13. We by no means approve the idea of continuing to defend the *Subah* of Oude in the Rohilla country ; you are, therefore, in future, strictly to confine yourselves to the letter and spirit of our orders on that subject dated 7th March 1775.

14. It is with equal surprise and concern that we observe on your minutes of Council, of the 13th February 1775, amongst several ideas suggested on the subject of a treaty to be concluded with the successor of Sujah Dowlah, that any servant of the East India Company should propose the relinquishing of a considerable part of our property, and giving up the Rohillah country to the King, in order to facilitate the obtaining from Shah Alum a grant of the sovereignty of Bengal and Bahar to the Crown of Great Britain.

15. We take it for granted that the impropriety of the minute alluded to, must have appeared to you in a light so striking as to have precluded all concurrence therein. We nevertheless think it necessary to issue the most speedy and peremptory orders and instructions for your future guidance, and therefore direct, that no proposal of a like tendency be ever made by you to Shah Alum, or agreed to, if proposed by him, or by any other person, on any account or pretence whatever.

16. Although the death of Sujah Dowlah may render it necessary to

make new arrangements with his successor we cannot agree with our Council that our treaties with the state of Oude expired with the death of that Nabob.

17. The keeping of a brigade in the service of the *Subah* of Oude is a measure we entirely approve (provided it be done with the free consent of the *Subah* but by no means without it) as it enables us to encrease the real strength of our army without incurring additional charges thereof, but the whole pay and contingent charges must be borne by the *Subah*.

18. The death of the late Vizier affords an opportunity for rendering this measure still more satisfactory. His successor cannot but be sensible how much depends upon our support, and therefore will, we persuade ourselves, readily consent to defray the whole expense of a brigade to be employed in the defence of his dominions. The necessary stipulations on your part will be that our troops shall not march beyond the line of those territories which Sujah Dowlah possessed in consequence of the treaty of 1765, and the provinces of Corah and Illahabad which were ceded to him by the Treaty of Benares, and that they shall be at all times subject to your recall in case they shall be wanted for our own immediate service. Upon these principles we direct you to conclude a treaty with Sujah Dowlah's successor, and to assure him that the most effectual assistance shall be afforded him by us, in case his country shall at any time be invaded.

19. We find the brigade lately employed with Sujah Dowlah consisted of two battlions of Europeans, six battalions of sepoy and one company of artillery, and this object appears to us of so great importance, in every point of view, that we think a compleat brigade should be stationed in future with the Nabob of Oude and paid by him as before directed.

20. And as a good body of horse would not only be of great use in time of action but also of singular service in preventing the incursions of Indian enemies, who frequently ravage the country with cavalry and retire before infantry can come up with them we should deem it an essential service rendered the Company, if you could prevail on the Nabob of Oude to keep up a body of horse, to be disciplined and officered by Europeans, and under our command.

21. In negotiating a defensive alliance of this nature and extent, no pains must be spared to convince the Nabob that our views terminate solely in the preservation of his country and that the troops, so to be kept for his defence, will not occasion a great additional charge to him because his own forces may be diminished in proportion to the strength acquired by our assistance.

22. The safety of so large a part of our army requires the utmost attention. You will therefore be particularly careful that the respective corps be so stationed as to admit of a speedy junction in cases of emergency.

23. Whatever number of troops may be thus entertained by the

Soubah of Oude we must again repeat that the whole expense must be borne by him ; but due care must be taken that such expence be not encreased by any unnecessary charge whatever.

24. As the important fortress of Chunagur was ceded to the Company by Sujah Dowlah you are by all means to keep possession thereof. A proper number of Europeans must be stationed there, and the command of the garrison must be entrusted to none but able and experienced officers.

25. We direct that the fort of Chunagur be forthwith repaired in such a manner as shall be necessary. It is nevertheless our order, that the charge of those repairs be included in the sum already authorized to be expended on public works, and that the strictest frugality be observed in conducting such repairs.

26. Although the office of Vizier of the empire was confirmed to Sujah Dowlah by our influence, we are uncertain how far the past conduct and present situation of Shah Alum may render it prudent for us now to interfere in the appointment of an officer of such nominal authority in his service, but, in case, from particular circumstances, it shall appear to you necessary to take a part in the recommendation of a person to fill that office, or that it may contribute to the preservation of peace in the country, we shall approve of your acting accordingly.

27. The conduct of our late Council in empowering the President to prepare instructions for Mr. Middleton, as agent at the court of Sujah Dowlah, without ordering them to be submitted to the Board for their inspection and approbation was very improper, and it is our express direction that no such independent or separate authority be ever delegated to any Governor or member of Council, or to any other person whatever, but that all instructions to public agents be laid before the Council and signed by a majority of the members before they be carried into execution.

28. As the appointment of Mr. Middleton was made by our President and Council his correspondence should have been addressed to them, or speedily and unreservedly laid before them by the President, and we cannot avoid expressing our disapprobation that any part thereof has been withheld from the perusal of our Supreme Council.

29. Observing that extracts of letters have been laid before the Board we direct that whenever the Governor General, Commander-in-Chief, or any of our Council shall introduce to the Board any letters or correspondence wrote to them, or to or by any of them, or by any person whatever, by their or any of their directions or privity, relating to the affairs of the Company, the whole of such letters and correspondence shall be produced to and laid before the Board.

30. On comparing the statement¹ of cash in the provincial and *khalsah* treasuries, transmitted by the Governor General with that corrected by the majority, we apprehend the apparent difference arises from the different modes of stating those accounts; we think the Governor's statement could not be accurate as the periods for which it was taken were

distant, and considerable remittances had been made between those periods from subordinate treasuries to the *khalsah*, and consequently some of those remittances might be twice reckoned in the account. On the other hand, it does not appear that any estimate is made of the amount of nearly one month's collection then in respect at the several subordinate treasuries.

31. In order therefore to obtain from time to time a more perfect cash account, we direct that our subordinate Revenue Councils transmit cash accounts every month dated the same day of the month, and that they specify the date and amount of their last remittance to the *khalsah*, that you may be certainly informed whether such remittance be received at the Presidency or not, you are then to state the balance of the *khalsah* treasury for the same day as the accounts of the subordinate treasuries are made up to, and to transmit such accounts, properly adjusted to us, by every ship for our information.

32. As you have acquainted us that we may expect the general books of the settlement and further advices by the *Anson* we shall, upon the arrival of that ship, take into consideration the subject of our revenues and resources in Bengal, and communicate to you our orders thereon as soon as convenient.

33. We have paid due attention to the representation of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature respecting their salaries, and admitting their calculations to be exact we must observe that it by no means appear to us that their conclusions are warranted from the premises.

34. According to the principles stated by the Judges, we find one thousand pounds sterling is equal to 9,767 *sicca* rupees and 2 annas, but to that sum they have added 16 per cent *batta* which is the nominal value of the *sicca* rupee. By this addition of *batta*, 9,767 *siccas* are made to produce current rupees 11,329, and thus without increasing in the least degree the real value of *sicca* rupees, they are rendered equal to pounds sterling 1132-18s; and by obtaining bills of exchange upon us for current rupees, at two shillings per rupee, the Judges would actually realize in England one thousand one hundred and thirty two pounds eighteen shillings for every one thousand pounds paid into our treasury in Bengal.

35. The salaries of the Governor General and Council and Commander-in-Chief amount to *sicca* rupees 5,96,400 or current rupees 7,10,000^a which at two shillings per rupee will realize in England the sum of seventy one thousand pounds sterling; but were the Governor General and Council to adopt the mode suggested by the Judges their salaries would amount to *sicca* rupees 6,93,457, which sum reduced into current rupees and converted into bills of exchange, would realize in England eighty thousand four hundred and forty one pounds sterling instead of seventy one thousand pounds sterling.

36. As *sonnaut* rupees bear an arbitrary valuation of one per cent above their real worth, were the Judges to be paid in that coin, and to receive the weight of silver proposed in *sonnauts*, and to repay them into

our treasury for bills of exchange at ten per cent *batta* only per current rupee, the rate of exchange, in such case, ought to be rather less than one shilling and ten pence half penny ; and if they were to receive the weight proposed in *siccas* and to repay them into our treasury, for bills upon us, an equitable rate of exchange would be eight pounds sixteen shillings and six pence farthing per cent or nearly one shilling and nine pence farthing per current rupee.

37. Having stated these facts, we have only to add, that we approve the term upon which you have adjusted the value of the current rupee and have no doubt but the Judges, upon reconsidering the subject, will find those terms as advantageous as can possibly be allowed by the Company, and strictly conformable to the spirit of the Act of Parliament, which cannot be supposed to entitle any persons whatever to receive a larger sum in Bengal than would be necessary to procure payment of their salaries in England.

38. The propriety of paying off, so soon as may be, the principal of our bond debt as well as of reducing the interest payable thereon appears so evident to us that we cannot omit the present opportunity of directing, in addition to our orders and instructions given in March last, that you constantly apply, from time to time, all surplus monies not wanted for the exigencies of government, or for the provision of our investment or for aids to our other Presidencies or China, towards the discharge of such principal money as may be owing by the Company on bond, or on interest notes in Bengal, until the whole shall be paid, except so much as is ordered to be discharged by bills of exchange and as hath been directed to be appropriated to the payment of pensions to our military in England, and also, such small sums as may be the property of widows or orphans who subsist upon the interest paid them by the Company. But even with these exceptions we think it improper that our whole debt at interest in Bengal should exceed the amount of 20 lacks of current rupees.

39. We have noticed the conduct of our Board of Trade respecting the duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent levied upon our investment,³ and the commercial profits arising from salt and opium ; and having taken into consideration their opinion, and also the separate opinions of our Governor General and Council on the subject, we are convinced of the propriety of the opinion of the Board of Trade and of the necessity of preventing our commercial privileges in Bengal from being infringed by making improper or unnecessary additions to the apparent amount of our revenues.

40. The letting of salt lands as part of the annual rent is sometimes paid in salt, the *khallery* tax and the duty paid on salt at the custom houses are no doubt articles of revenue, and as such proper objects of your department, but we cannot allow that profits arising from sales at auction come under that description. We therefore direct, that you deliver over to our Board of Trade, so soon as may be, all salt received or which may hereafter be received by you either in payment of rents or as the surplus of the districts at prime cost, necessary charges included ; and that our said

Board of Trade sell the same at public auction, and apply the produce towards the provision of our investments in like manner as we have directed them to apply the produce of our consignments from hence in the 17th article of our orders and instructions dated the 29th of March 1774.

41. As the Revenue Council at Patna are of opinion that the opium business may be more conveniently conducted by their Board than by our commercial servants, on that consideration only, we direct, that the provision thereof be continued under your management but that you consign the same, when provided, to our Board of Trade at prime cost, who are to dispose thereof at public auction, and to apply the produce towards the provision of our investment.

42. We disapprove the levying of two and a half per cent upon our investment as it occasions a fictitious increase of our custom at Bengal and a fallacious account of the prime cost of our imports from thence. On this subject we direct, that the officers of revenue continue to issue *rowannahs*, as usual, in order to prevent impositions by individuals, and that the same be registered for your information ; and also, that all *rowannahs* issued on our account be regularly compared with the amount of goods passed duty free under the denomination of the Company's investment ; but you are by no means to receive any sums of money from our Board of Trade as an import or duty levied on goods which compose our investment.

43. As the custom of receiving complimentary *nazirs*, or presents, is not only liable to abuse, but also contrary to the late act of Parliament, for regulating India affairs, we much approve the determination of the majority to refuse all such presents, and direct, that strict obedience be paid to the said act not only by all the members of our Council but by every person in our service and by all British subjects residing in India under our protection.

44. The attention shewn by our late President and Council to hereditary *zemindars*, and the care taken to exclude *banyans* and other servants of revenue, officers from farming of lands, in the general system formed for that purpose, gave us the greatest satisfaction, and it is, therefore, with great surprize we read on your minutes of Council that *banyans* of Calcutta, or persons protected by them, occupy the place of *zemindars* and farm the revenues, and that to such causes the large balances in arrear may truly be imputed.

45. This subject appears to us of so great importance that we direct you forthwith to investigate it fully, and if you shall find former regulations ineffectual for preventing the evils enumerated on your proceedings, you are forthwith to apply such remedies as the nature of the case shall require for eradicating all improper influence in obtaining farms by persons prohibited by the said regulations.

46. In regard to pensions⁴ being allowed to such *zemindars* as have really compounded with Government for the profits of their *zemindaries* it seems to us but just that they should receive their annual allowance ; and as to the effect which such conventions may have upon the country we

apprehend they must be salutary because extortions, frauds and embezzlements of *zemindary dquans* and collectors are thereby totally prevented. But if you shall find that collusive bargains have been made, and that stipends are allowed to *zemindars* without an equitable consideration received by us for such stipends we direct, that you regulate the same in such manner as shall prevent further imposition upon the Company on this account.

47. Your proceedings relative to the Ranny of Burdwan and Mr. John Graham, to the salt makers and the contractors and to the writ of habeas corpus issued against one of the Company's farmers at Dacca have been duly attended to, but as the materials before us are incomplete we can at present give no directions on those proceedings. We shall collect the principal facts, as they appear to us, and take the opinion of Council thereon, which will be transmitted to you by another but early conveyance for your information and future guidance.

48. By this conveyance we transmit you copy of advices received from our servants at Bombay relative to the capture of Salsette and Caringa, and to the subsequent cession of those places to the Company by Ragobah the Morattah chief, and although the materials before us do not enable us to give you particular instructions on every point relative to those important events, we however approve, under every circumstance, of the keeping of all territories and possessions ceded to the Company by the treaty concluded with Ragobah. and direct, that you forthwith adopt such measures as may be necessary for their preservation and defence.

49. In attending to this object, you will not fail to communicate our sentiments to the commander of His Majesty's squadron, or to request such countenance and support from the King's ships as shall, from time to time, be necessary for the security of our possessions and for the advantage of our affairs on that side of India.

50. At present we do not see the propriety of your request to Sir Edward Hughes for a King's ship to proceed to Balambangan, you are before now in possession of our prohibitory orders respecting that settlement which we hereby confirm, and direct, that, they be strictly observed in future.

51. It is our order, that no Company's servant or military officer be henceforth finally dismissed our service, until his case shall have been represented to us for our determination, except such military officers as shall be cashiered by sentence of a court martial.

52. We see no material inconvenience that can attend the measurement of the Dacca lands, and therefore direct, that, it be resumed and faithfully accomplished if it shall not have been done before the receipt of these our orders.

53. We find on your estimate of extra receipts and disbursements one article which states upwards of nineteen lacks of rupees as appropriated towards discharging old salt balances. This requires the strictest investigation. We observe several claims originally made by natives in their own names are now renewed in the names of Europeans, which we deem very

irregular.

54. Our Committee of Revenue in 1771 were of opinion that Government had connived at the frauds of their own officers, who might possibly have received greater advances of money from salt merchants than the produce of the districts could bear. That if the whole of those advances had not been brought to account, the balances then claimed must be a clear loss to the revenues, and in case they have been accounted for it seems evident that there has been an anticipation of the revenues to the amount specified.

55. It is therefore our order, that you pay no part of the said sum of nineteen lacks of rupees for salt balances until you shall be fully convinced that the claimants have an undoubted right to receive the same from the Company.

56. We direct that you pay to the late chiefs of Revenue Councils, or their attorneys or representatives the sums which would have been due to them respectively if their annual allowance had been to the same amount only, which you have granted to the present chiefs of those departments.

57. As the bank⁵ in Bengal does not appear to have answered the purposes for which it was established, nor the plan to have been freed from those objections we made to it in our letters of March last, we fully approve the abolition thereof.

58. In the 15th article of our general instructions, dated the 29th March 1774, we directed you to continue such of our servants in the collection and management of the revenues, as were, or had been, employed with reputation in that Department, and desirous as we are of giving that sanction to your appointments which in general we deem necessary, in order to avoid the appearance of a divided authority, and to prevent our servants in the Revenue Department from entertaining expectations of preferment by any other means than a diligent and faithful discharge of the duties assigned them by you, it is with reluctance we declare, that we cannot consistently approve of all your appointments, but having, on a former occasion, out of regard to the public service, and to the conduct and abilities of Mr. Purling, particularly recommended him to our President and Council in Bengal, and Mr. Bathoe having also had the recommendation of the Court of Directors, and as you have not stated any reasons to induce us to alter that good opinion which we have hitherto entertained of them we are at a loss to account for your inattention to our recommendations, however we will not finally determine on this matter until a future conveyance.

59. Observing on Select Consultations, 18th April 1774, that the late Vizier entertained a considerable number of Europeans in his service, "by which means he had formed a sepoy establishment of nearly 20 battalions by no means inferior in appearance or discipline to the most perfect of our battalions", we deem this a point of so much consequence that we direct you to use your utmost endeavors to procure the dismissal of all such Europeans, and their removal from the dominions of the late Nabob, and

that, if possible, this is made an express article in the treaty to be concluded with his successors.

60. Having thus given you our sentiments and directions on subjects of importance contained in the papers of your Secret Department, we reserve our answer to your general advices for another letter ; and in this place only add that we hope a sense of duty will animate you to an exertion of your utmost abilities in the conduct of our affairs with that condiality and harmony so essential to the interest of the Company.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

John Harrison/John Roberts/Wm. James/
G. Wombwell/Robt. Gregory/Jn. Michie/
Fredk. Pigou/Chas. Boddam/W. Devaynes/
Pet. Lascelles/Thos. Rumbold/J. Stables/
Edwd. Wheler/John. Woodhouse

London,
15th December 1775.

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LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1776

Inability to comply with large requisition for recruits—copies of Arabic grammer sent—Governor General not empowered to dissolve Council meeting without majority consent—violation of revenue regulations—General Cleavering commended for his zeal.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1. By the ships *Nassau* and *Greenwich* we addressed you in your Public and Separate Departments, our letters were dated the 15th of December, and triplicates are now sent by the *Prince of Wales*.

2. The *Anson* from your Presidency arrived at Kinsale the 25th December ; by that ship we have received the advices, minutes of Council, and papers therewith transmitted agreeable to the lists of packets.

3. By the ships *Prince of Wales*, *Shrewsbury*, *London*, and *Lioness*, now under dispatch for the Coast and Bay, you will receive transcripts of this letter, and for the particulars of those ships cargoes we refer you to their invoices and bills of lading.

4. Mr. John Mackenzie having been detained in England on account of his health proceeded to his station by the *Fox*, and we hereby direct, that he continue to rise on your list of covenant servants next under Mr. Charles Croftes, which is the rank we assigned him in our General Letter of the 30th March 1774. It is also our order that such rank be constantly preserved to him, and that he be at no time hereafter superseded without

our express directions.

5 Mr. Edward George Lind, appointed a writer for your Presidency by our letter of the 15th December last, takes his passage on the *London*.

6. On account of the great number of recruits wanted for His Majesty's service, we have been obliged to permit our inspector to accept of lads under twenty years of age, at five feet three inches high; and very much doubt, even with this alteration, whether we shall be able to supply you with so many soldiers as our Commander-in-Chief has advised us are necessary to be annually sent to Bengal.

7. Captain Patrick Duff who was prevented from proceeding farther than Medeira last season, now takes his passage from thence in the *London* to Bengal, and on his arrival, his rank is to be adjusted agreeable to our directions of the 3rd March 1775, paragraph 90.

8. We have appointed Mr. Joseph Burnett who is in Bengal, to be a lieutenant fire-worker at your settlement, and to take rank from the receipt of this letter.

9. We have also appointed Mr. Humphry Cotes to be a lieutenant fire-worker in your artillery, who is to take his rank as such from his arrival.

10. Ensign Patrick Douglas returns to his duty in your corps of engineers, and on his arrival is to take rank from the date of the commission granted him in Bengal.

11. Lieutenants Samuel Farmer of the infantry and Walter Roberts of the artillery, who came to England for the recovery of health, have our permission to return to Bengal this season without prejudice to their ranks.

12. In consideration of the recommendation of our late Governor and Council, and of the principal inhabitants of Calcutta, we have permitted the Reverend Mr. Yate to return to and reside in Bengal to adjust his affairs, and we direct, that he succeed to the first vacancy that shall happen by death, or otherwise of either of our present chaplains.

13. Major Henry Weston having represented to us that on the 6th April 1772, he deposited in the Company's cash at your Presidency one lack thirty three thousand three hundred and thirty three current rupees, five annas and four pice, and that he had subscribed a paper agreeing that the interest notes or security, or the money thereby intended to be secured, should remain in the hands of the President and Council of Fort William, for the time being, in trust to pay or deliver the same to him or such person or persons as he should appoint from England after he should receive an answer whether we would pay him the value thereof or not or in case of his death to his legal representatives, unless he should receive the value thereof from us in which case the same is to be placed to the Company's credit, but as we do not think proper to make any payment here in part of the said notes our secretary has, in our name, signed such our resolution, on the paper presented to us by Major Watson

relative to the said deposit. And as we apprehend Major Watson may be desirous of being repaid part of the said sum of rupees 1,33,333. 5An 4p., deposited as above mentioned, with the interest that may be due thereon you are hereby directed to pay the whole or such part of the said principal and interest as may be demanded to his attornies, Messieurs John Levett, William Bensley and Stephen Lymberry, residing in Calcutta, or either of them taking their proper discharges for the same.

14. An Arabic grammar lately published being esteemed a very useful work to the student of the Persian language, we send you a few copies thereof, by the ships *Shrewsbury*, *London*, *Lioness*, being desirous of affording every means in our power to enable our servants to attain an accomplishment which will be of great use to the Company and of service to themselves.

15. By the ship *Anson* we have received a duplicate of your Secret Letter, dated 29th March 1775, and also your separate minutes, dated the 20th of March and 3rd and 4th of April, relative to a power claimed by the Governor General of dissolving the Council at his pleasure against the declared sense of the major part of the members present.

16. The *Anson* having been obliged to put in to Ireland we have not yet received your book packet, and consequently the proceedings of the majority, after the Governor General and Mr. Barwell had withdrawn from the Board, are not before us.

17. The importance of the question whether the Governor General is legally empowered to dissolve the Council at pleasure, contrary to the declared sense of the majority, is so great that we have judged it proper to state the case to some of the most eminent lawyers in this kingdom and to have their opinions before we finally decide thereon which opinions we have not yet been able to obtain. But however the question may be determined, respecting the legality of the power, we are clearly of opinion that it is highly improper that such a power which may be attended with the most fatal consequences should be exercised by our Governor General, or by any President of our Council, and therefore to prevent further inconvenience, and totally to suppress all claims of this kind in future, it is our express command that no meeting of our Council, (the members having been duly summonsd shall be dissolved or adjourned by the authority of our Governor General, or of any President for the time being, without the consent of a majority of members present at every such meeting of our said Council.

18. And if it shall hereafter happen that the Governor General, or any member or members of Council, not being a majority shall think proper to withdraw from the Council Board and leave a majority of the whole Council sitting and if such majority shall be of opinion that it may be necessary and for the good of our service to proceed to the dispatch of public business, we hereby direct, that they continue to sit so long (and to adjourn from time to time) as they shall think it requisite and for our interest so to do, and that their minutes, resolutions and proceedings shall

be recorded in the same book and form as would have been the case if no member had withdrawn.

19. It is our further command that all orders which shall be issued by such majority, so assembled in Council as aforesaid, to any of our servants in Bengal, civil or military, be implicitly obeyed in the same manner, to all intents and purposes, as though such orders had been authorized and signed by all the members of our said Council.

20. The heavy charges brought against our Governor General have impressed us with the most serious concern, but the state of this interesting business is as yet too imperfectly before us to enable us to decide thereon at present.

21. Your advices respecting *banyans* holding of lands and chiefs of councils interfering in farms have alarmed us exceedingly, and although we are not prepared by this dispatch to give our sentiments fully on the system of letting the lands we cannot pass this subject over unnoticed.

22. We are sorry to observe that many useful regulations established by the Council of Revenue and Committee of Circuit in 1772, have been totally disregarded. The following abstracts of their proceedings, compared with subsequent transactions verify this observation, and convince us that those regulations have been grossly evaded and to an enormous extent.

23. By the 17th article of those regulations *banyans* and other servants of the collector, of whatever denomination, are totally precluded from holding any concern, directly or indirectly in any farm, and if any person, under a false name, or by any kind of collusion, evades this regulation, he is to be subject to an heavy fine and to forfeit his farm ; and if the collector connive at a breach thereof, he stands ipso facto dismissed from his collectorship ; and no European is permitted, directly or indirectly, to rent lands in any part of the country.

24. The observations of the Committee of Revenue of this regulation are that if collectors or any persons, who partake of their authority, are permitted to be the farmers of the country no other persons will dare to be their competitors ; that of course they will obtain the farms on their own terms ; that it is not fitting for the servants of the Company to become dealers with their masters ; that collectors are checks on the farmers ; but if they themselves turn farmers no checks can be found for them ; that the Company will not have any security for their property nor the ryots be able to obtain relief against oppressions.

25. In 1773 the collectors of revenue were recalled and the office was executed by a chief and council.

26. If it was thought dangerous to permit the *banyan* of a collector to be concerned in farms we must conclude that the same or stronger objections will always be against the Governor's *banyan* being thus concerned, and we direct that you enforce the said 17th regulation.

27. By the 11th article of the said regulations it is stipulated that the farmer's payments to Government shall be ascertained and established, and no demand made upon him over the sum expressed in the rent roll deli-



John Clavering

vered him with his lease.

28. The reasoning of the Committee on this article appears very excellent ; but to our concern we find so little regard paid thereto that one lack twenty five thousand five hundred rupees per annum have been demanded, and upwards of ninety eight thousand rupees received upon two inconsiderable farms independent of the agreement made with the Company, and claimed by our servants as a perquisite of office or emolument of station.

29. Whatever may be our final determination on these proceedings it is our positive command that no person in our service do presume to ask, accept or receive, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, reward or benefit from any farmer of our lands or revenues or on account of any farm, contrary to the true intent and meaning of the said 11th article abovementioned.

30. It is also our express direction that *pottahs* be regularly prepared and delivered to the *ryots*, and that the farmer do not receive more from the *ryot* than the stipulated amount of his *potah*, according to the 10th regulation.

31. You will take care that the 2nd article be strictly observed and that no farmer be permitted to rent lands to a greater amount than one hundred thousand rupees, hereditary *zemindars* excepted ; and except, also, there shall be an evident necessity for departing from the rule to prevent confusion or inconvenience which may be occasioned by the subdivision of *purgunnahs*.

32. We further direct, that the prohibition contained in the 18th article, relative to the lending of money to *zemindars*, farmers or *ryots*, be extended to all our servants of every denomination, and that every person who shall be found offending against this order be forthwith suspended from holding any employment under the Company till our pleasure shall be known.

33. We recommend it to you, so to regulate the *kists* of the farmer that they may become payable at the usual times of harvest agreeably to the 19th regulation.

34. As monopolies in the hands of individuals at our residencies must necessarily tend to distress the country, it is our order, that you use your utmost endeavours to prevent undue influence from operating to the prejudice of the fair trader at any of our subordinate factories ; and that you give impartial encouragement to all such merchants as may with propriety be allowed to carry on a free trade with the neighbouring provinces.

35. The exigency of affairs has rendered it necessary for us to give you the above directions by this conveyance. When the opinions of all the members of your Board, relative to letting the lands in Bengal, are before us we shall take the subject into further consideration, and transmit you our orders and instructions thereon by the earliest opportunity.

36. The observations of General Clavering on military expences appear equally just and striking, and the regulations proposed by him for

correcting abuses, afford us the strongest proof of his attention to our interest. We are not enabled, before the closing of this letter, to consider fully the utility of the General's plan for establishing a board of ordinance to regulate and controul the issue and expenditure of military stores, but shall give you our sentiments at [large] by another conveyance. In the mean time we cannot omit testifying our entire approbation of that zeal, which he has thereby manifested for the welfare of the Company.

37. In addition to what we wrote in our letter of 28th December last, relative to salt [balances] we think it necessary to observe, that by the regulation of the 7th October 1768, the *molungees* were not to be called upon for any balances after the then approaching season.

38. In December 1770 the trade was laid open and Europeans permitted to engage therein, subject to the regulations then in force or to such others as might be made by the administration.

39. It appears in the case of Mr. Reed that in December 1771, the orders relative to balances had not been strictly adhered to. It was therefore resolved that the merchants should have a preference of one year's claim to the labour of the *molungces*, which must have expired in 1772, and after which time the regulations of 1768 were to be in full force, unless repealed by the Board.

40. We do not find that any future proceedings of the Governor and Council have set aside those specifick injunctions which prohibit demands on the *molungees* for old balances; we therefore cannot at present conceive, that the claims of former merchants ought to be satisfied by the Company. The amount renders it an object of consequence; and we direct, that you carefully attend to all the circumstances of former regulations before you finally decide thereon, or admit of any claims which subject us to the payment of money on account of old salt balances.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

John Harrison/John Roberts/Fredk. Pigou/
Jn. Woodhouse/Wn. James/Daniel Wier/
J. Stables/Jn. Michie/Chas. Boddam/W
Devaynes/Nathl. Smith/W.G. Freeman/Pet
Lascelles/Geo. Wombwell/Edwd. Wheler/
George Cuming/Ben. Booth/Jas. Moffat /
Richd. Becher.

London,
31st January 1776.

LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1776

Indent for military stores should be formed with care—officers.

readmitted into service after the general association of 1776 not to lose their ranks—relative to society for relief of persons imprisoned for small debts—Richardson's Persian, Arabic, and English dictionary.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote to you last under date of the 31st January, in quadruplicate, by the ships *Prince of Wales*, *Shrewsbury*, *Lioness* and *London*.

2. The ship *Duke of Cumberland* is now under dispatch for Fort St. George and Bengal, and as the *Triton* will be then the only remaining ship for Coast and Bay we shall order the *Hector* to call at Fort St. George in her way to Bombay, chiefly for the purpose of conveying duplicates of our advices intended to be sent by the *Triton*.

3. We have appointed Mr. James Wade to be a volunteer in your pilot service who takes his passage on the *Duke of Cumberland*.

4. Notwithstanding the orders already given to prevent incurring the heavy expence of demorage and the great risk our ships are exposed to by their late dispatch from Bengal, we find upon settling the ship *Resolution's* account of freight and demorage, that upwards of six thousand pounds damages have been sustained in that ship's cargo by her being dispatched after the time limited by charterparty which is a clear loss to the Company. We therefore direct that you hasten the loading of such ships, as now are or may hereafter be under your direction, that they may be dispatched to Europe within the time prescribed by their charterparties.

5. Upon taking into consideration the indents received from Bengal we could not but remark the novelty in the title of that for military stores which runs in the following words: "Indent for Arms and Accoutrements that *must* be complied with" from the very pointed manner in which a compliance with this indent was demanded. We were led to expect very uncommon attention had been paid in framing their indents, but upon examination it appeared no extraordinary care had been taken in this instance; but that the quantities were very great and infinitely exceeded what we think your occasions can require. To particularize a few among a great variety of articles it may be necessary to mention that ten thousand musquets are indented for, when there appear by the remains to be upwards of twenty eight thousand in store; that they demand 600 espontoons, six hundred halberts and two hundred brass drums compleat with carriages. The amount of soldiers accoutrements are in general very great and the first article under that head which is eight hundred buff bandaliers which have not been used by Government for a great many years past. The tonnage of the indent for ordnance and ordnance stores a compliance with which is conditionally desired if there should be sufficient room, amounts for the brass and iron ordnance to about seventy six tons, and the shells to fifty eight tons; we have therefore upon the whole been under the necessity of curtailing the indents very considerably but are nevertheless of opinion the supplies sent will be very sufficient for our service, and we expect the framing

of the indents in future will be considered as a business of much consequence and the proper attention paid to it accordingly, and that it may be observed as an invariable rule not to indent for any stores which are the produce of or can be manufactured in the East Indies.

6. General Clavering's complaint respecting the small arms has been attentively considered, and from some circumstances we are of opinion it must be against the musquets sent some years since. The price of the small arms has been increased as an encouragement to the makers to finish them with the best materials, and from the present mode of inspection and the particular care taken it is hoped there will be no future cause of complaint, but if contrary to our expectations any of the pieces should appear on their delivery to be defective in any respect, it is desired such pieces may be packed up and returned to England with a description of their defects that the makers may be called on to deliver others in their room which they have engaged to do.

7. Upon the representation of the friends of Mr. Edward Fenwicke, we have been induced to revoke our order of the 23rd March 1770, and now direct that he be restored to his original rank next below Mr. Thomas Legh.

8. The friends of Mr. John Douglas, a surgeon upon your establishment, having requested our permission for his return to Europe without prejudice to his standing, we have consented there to, and direct that upon his application, you grant him a passage on one of our returning ships.

9. We have permitted Major Douglas Hill to return to Bengal with the rank he would have held had he not come to England, which is that of eldest major and next below Lieutenant Colonel Tottingham, and we hereby direct that the bar to the Major's rising in the service, as mentioned in our letter of the 16th March 1768, be taken off, and that he do rise in future agreeably to the above rank.

10. Having considered the memorial of Lieutenant Francis Robertson and the recommendation of him by our late Governor and Council, in the 78th paragraph of their General Letter, dated 15th March 1774, we have thought fit to restore him to his full rank in the service, and accordingly direct that he take his standing as Captain of Foot, next below Captain John Browne, agreeable to a commission we have granted him for that purpose.

11. And in case there shall be any other officers in Bengal, who were concerned in the general association in 1766 and have been since re-admitted into the service with loss of rank, we direct that they be restored to the respective ranks they would have held had they not been concerned in that transaction provided their conduct has been satisfactory.

12. Major John Smith belonging to your infantry establishment having offered his services on the Malabar Coast during the troubles with the Morattas there; we have permitted him to proceed to Bombay accordingly, but he is to be considered in all respects as belonging to the establishment at your Presidency and to draw his pay from you.

13. It having appeared to us that Captain John Cockerell had been greatly injured in the rank assigned him in the list of cadets appointed by us in 1764, we have granted him a commission giving him rank next to and immediately after Captain Marsack, and direct that he do constantly preserve the same in our service.

14. Thinking it necessary to send out several cadets for settlements this season, to be trained up for the service of our army, you will be informed of the names of such who are appointed for Bengal by the lists that will be forwarded in packets by the *Triton* and *Hector* which will also guide you in the manner they are to be ranked.

15. In consequence of the very great difficulty of procuring recruits for our service owing to the situation of public affairs, we have found ourselves under necessity of accepting several growing young lads, notwithstanding they are under the prescribed standard; we have likewise permitted a few men to be taken as recruits who are also under the standard, but the latter and chiefly soldiers who have returned to England, after having remained their contracted time in the Company's service in India.

16. We have permitted Mr. Peter Chollet to remain in India as a free merchant, and as he will most likely reside in Bengal, the usual covenants are now forwarded in the ship *Duke of Cumberland's* packet, which when signed by him, and two witnesses, are to be returned to us by the first conveyance.

17. We agree in pursuance of what you mention in the 15th paragraph of your letter of the 24th February in the Secret Department, that Messrs. Motte, Fowke and Scott¹ be permitted to remain at Gazipore provided you are satisfied that no prejudice will result to our affairs from such permission.

18. In compliance with the desire of the society for the discharge and relief of persons imprisoned here for small debts, which humane establishment has met with much encouragement from the public, we send you on the ships *Duke of Cumberland* and *Triton* several books of the state of that charity; and wishing to countenance the laudible designs of the said society, we recommend it to you and to all persons residing under your Presidency to promote contributions, and authorize you to remit by bills upon us so much as may be paid into your hands on the above account.

19. The author of a Persian, Arabick and English dictionary and grammar having desired our countenance and assistance in promoting a work, which he apprehends may prove of general utility to the Company, their servants and others in the East Indies, and requested we would receive the amount of any subscriptions which may be made in India in favor of the said work into the Company's cash at our several Presidencies for bills of exchange on the Court of Directors, and we being desirous of affording the said work every aid in our power do hereby direct you to receive whatever sums may be tendered you on that account, and to grant bills of exchange upon us payable to Mr. John Richardson,

on the same terms, respecting the rate of exchange, as are allowed to our covenant servants.

20. Having last season 'permitted Mrs. Hawksworth² to send to Bengal her late husband's works, intituled *Compilation of Voyages*, we hereby direct that you receive the produce thereof if tendered to you so far as to the amount of one thousand pounds for bills of exchange to be drawn upon us after the 1st August 1777.

21. The weighty points mentioned in your advices and records by the *Anson* and preceding ships which have not yet been noticed, being at present under consideration you will receive our sentiments by the next conveyance.

22. We have drawn upon you one set of bills of exchange at two shillings and one penny per current rupee and thirty days sight, vizt.

One set for current rupees four hundred and eighty or pounds sterling fifty in favor of

Mr. John Hunter on order received of him- } Rs. 480. £ 50.
self dated the 21st March 1776.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

John Harrison/Wm. James/Ben. Booth/
Pet. Lascelles/George Cuming / Fredk.
Pigou/J. Stables/W. G. Freeman/Richd.
Becher/Chas. Boddam/Daniel Wier/Jn.
Michie/Geo. Wombwell/W. Devaynes-
Edw. Wheler/H. Fletcher.

London,
25th March 1776.
[Per *Triton*]

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LETTER DATED 29 MARCH 1776

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Since our dispatches were closed on the 25th instant, we have thought proper to prepare a list of goods to be provided in Bengal for the ships proceeding thither this season, which you will receive inclosed and are to conform to, in all respects so far as circumstances will admit.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

John Roberts/ Wm. James/Jn. Wood-
house/J. Manship/J. Stables/Daniel
Wier/Heny. Savage/W. Devaynes/Edwd.
Wheler/Robt. Gregory/Nathl. Smith/
Jn. Michie/W. G. Freeman/George
Cuming/H. Fletcher/Chas. Boddam/G.
Wombwell/Peter Lascelles/Ben. Booth/
Jas. Moffatt.

London,
29th March 1776.
[Per *Duke of Cumberland*]

LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 1776

Hodgson's sugar works, rum distillery and silk works to be encouraged—Halhed's translation of Hindu code—Major Watson appointed Chief Engineer—activities of neighbouring powers to be watched—French forces in Isles of France and Bourbon—late President and Council censured.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The ship *Duke of Cumberland* conveyed to you our last dispatches dated the 25th and 29th March, duplicates and triplicate of which are sent by the ships *Triton* and *Hector*.

2. It has been represented to us, that Mr. Joseph Hodgson rents a spot of ground which he has planted with sugar canes and erected sugar works on the best plan of those in the West Indies, that he has likewise set up a distillery of rum which he apprehends will be productive of benefit to Bengal, by preventing a drain of specie to Batavia for those articles, to a very considerable amount annually, and we being desirous of encouraging so laudable and great an undertaking, from which many advantages may arise to the Company, we recommend it to you to give Mr. Hodgson all suitable encouragement towards perfecting a scheme which has so much utility in prospect, provided it does not appear to you to be detrimental to the health of the inhabitants.

3. Having been informed that Mr. Hodgson has engaged in silk works in Bengal, from which many advantages may accrue not only to the proprietor but to the Company, we direct that suitable encouragement be given for carrying the same into execution by purchasing the silk, provided it can be procured on equal terms with the Radnagore silk already received.

4. That we may be enabled to give a satisfactory answer to the anxious enquiries of the several friends and relations of the persons engaged as workmen in the silk filatures under Messrs. Wiss and Robinson, and at the same time receive such information ourselves as may be a guide to us in making any advances here on their behalf, we direct that you send us by the first and last ships of the season, certificates of such as are living with an account of their situation.

5. We have received Mr. Halhed's translation of the Gentoo Code of Laws transmitted us per *Anson*, and though we cannot pretend to judge of the accuracy of the work, yet as it is said to be executed with great ability, we have much satisfaction in finding amongst our junior servants one so well versed in the Persian language; and as Mr. Halhed's¹ character for diligence and fidelity is answerable to his other qualifications, we desire you would give him all suitable encouragement,

6. We have appointed Major Henry Watson to be our Chief Engineer in Bengal with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and from his abilities and assiduity we have no doubt of his discharging the duties of that important office with honor to himself, and to the advantage of the Company.

7. We confirm the rank of Lieutenant Colonel to Mr. Fortnom next below Mr. Watson and direct that he continue to execute the office of Chief Engineer, and enjoy the allowances and emoluments annexed to that post till the arrival of Mr. Watson in Bengal.

8. We also confirm the rank of Major to Mr. Rennell, and have taken into consideration your earnest recommendation of him for a further gratification, which, when he returns to England, we are induced to think will merit our favorable consideration.

9. As Captain Thomson's claim for *batta* seems founded on a general order, we acquiesce therein, and direct that he be paid the amount which he had reason to expect would be allowed in consequence of the said general order.

10. We have no objection to the privilege granted to Messrs. Sumner, Heatley and Redfearn to get coal in the Patchett province, provided the rights of the native *zemindars* are not infringed nor the revenues of the Company endangered or diminished thereby.

11. We for the present confirm the appointments of your subordinate Councils of Revenue, with their salaries and allowances for house rent, as stated on your proceedings. But we recommend it to you to consider attentively whether those boards are capable of answering the purposes intended by their institution; and particularly, whether by a constant residence in any one part of a district so large as those into which the provinces are now divided, they will be able so to superintend the objects committed to their care as to prevent the Company's revenues from suffering improper diminution and the natives from being oppressed by undue exactions.

12. We direct that you carefully examine the claim of Mahomed Reza Khan for arrears of salary for the time he held the post of *Naiib Duan*; and if it shall appear to you that his claim is well founded you have our permission to discharge the said arrear or such part thereof as shall be found due to Mahomed Reza Khan upon full investigation and an equitable adjustment of his accounts.

13. Having the greatest reason to be satisfied with the conduct of Commodore Sir Edward Hughes during the time he has had the chief command of His Majesty's ships in the East Indies, we are happy in the opportunity of manifesting our regard to that gentlemen [*sic*] and to the other officers of the Royal Navy, and therefore approve the allowances made to them, as stated on your proceedings of the 10th November 1774.

14. However we might be disposed to confirm your readmission of Mr. Kinderdine into our service from motives of humanity, we find it absolutely out of our power except on the terms prescribed by the late Act² of Parliament, namely by the consent of three parts in four of the Court of

Directors and of a Court of Proprietors to be specially called for that purpose.

15. The inconveniences suggested by you as arising, and in your opinion likely to arise in Bengal from the extension of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Judicature, have been represented to His Majesty's ministers, and we hope to obtain the opinions of the law officers of the Crown and other eminent counsel in time to be forwarded to you, together with our orders and instructions thereon, by the packet which will be kept in readiness to convey to you our final decision on several important points left undetermined as noticed in the 31st paragraph of this letter.

16. In our letter of the 23rd March 1770, we advised our Presidency of Bengal that we had lent Captain George Burghall £ 500 on account of his share of the late Nabob Jaffier Aly Khan's donation to the military, and directed them to recover the amount of Mr. Burghall's attornies, which we do not find has been done, nor any more than £ 84-8-6 received into the Company's cash at Fort Marlborough in part of the said bond; Mr. Burghall, who is proceeding to Fort St. George as senior captain in our corps of engineers, having requested us to assist him in procuring payment of whatever may be due on account of the said donation, that he may be thereby enabled to discharge the balance due to us on the above bond, as a particular mark of our favor to him we have agreed to remit £ 100 of the principal, which sum you are to write off accordingly, and recommend it to you to call upon his attornies for the remainder of his debt to the Company, and to assist them in recovering from Mr. Grant the balance that may be due to Captain Burghall.

17. We hereby order and direct that notwithstanding our orders of the 31st January last, Mr. Patrick Douglas, an ensign of infantry on your establishment, be removed to the corps of engineers, and that he do take his rank next to and immediately after Mr. Thomas Call and from the 17th November 1773.

18. By our letter of the 23rd December 1774, we directed that Colonel Giles Stibbert and Lieutenant Colonel James Morgan should, upon their arrival at Fort William, take rank according to the commissions received from us.

19. Your appointment of Colonels Leslie and Ironside to be full colonels, after the receipt of our orders respecting Colonel Stibbert and Lieutenant Colonel Morgan, was very improper, as it subjects us to the disagreeable necessity of revoking commissions granted by you, or of creating Mr. Morgan full Colonel immediately in order to prevent his being commanded by his junior officer.

20. As degradation must ever operate in checking the spirit and damping the ardor of a good soldier we forbear to revoke the commissions of Colonels Leslie and Ironside, but as there will then be five full colonels at Fort William, it is our express order that the command of brigades do devolve upon the three senior colonels.

21. In our letter of March 1774, observations were made on the

large balance remaining in the hands of some of our officers, particularly the Import Warehousekeeper whose balance was $8\frac{1}{2}$ lacks at the end of April 1772, but in your subsequent accounts it appears that in May 1772 he had paid into your treasury upwards of 8 lacks and by the books and accounts since received, he appears to have duly and regularly paid in his amount of sales ; this circumstance gives us the greater satisfaction as your attention seems to have anticipated our orders upon this subject, and we trust that the same attention will make every future remonstrance of the kind unnecessary.

22. Since it becomes you continually to have a vigilant eye upon such powers as from their situation and disposition may at any time affect our interest, we trust that a due sense of your duty has always directed and will still continue to direct you, heedfully to observe the public proceedings of the states around you, whether natives or Europeans, and to endeavor to develope every machination that may be forming against us, reflecting on the very important station in which you are placed as guardian of the political and commercial rights of the English nation in those parts committed to your government.

23. We must here call your attention to a most momentous subject, the encreasing force of the French represented to us as collecting in the Isles of France and Bourbon. The enclosed intelligence, which we now transmit to you, was communicated to us by a person who called there in a French ship in his way from Bengal in October last ; you will avail yourselves of every part of the information that may be found authentic, and at the same time use such means to procure such further knowledge relative to this point that you may be prepared for every event.

24. Having great reason to be dissatisfied with the conduct of Mr. John Herbert, our late Chief of Balambangan, we have suspended him our service and hereby direct that in case he shall appear in Bengal, you endeavour by every legal method to oblige him to deliver an account of all ships, vessels, stores, merchandize, cash and effects with which he has been entrusted on our behalf, and to enable you to judge of the state of our demands and to recover any property, you may get intelligence, he has in Bengal, we send you by the ship *Triton* copies of all such other parts of the transactions and accounts of our late Chief and Council which have come to our possession and have not before been sent; and we rely upon your utmost diligence to secure all that may be in his possession (under the above caution) whether the same shall be allowed by him to be our property or claimed as his private estate, and you are to take an obligation from him to be responsible to us for all deficiencies or losses occasioned by his misconduct.

25. We observe in the 6th paragraph of the letter from the Board of Trade dated the 17th March 1775, that the reason assigned for not sending a compleat statement of our investment provided in the year 1774, is, that they had not then received the accounts from the subordinates requisite for that purpose, which we cannot admit to be a sufficient reason

but conceive it to be a neglect in their not giving the several Chiefs and Councils timely notice, to prepare and send them to you for the early ships, which we direct may be done in future, as those accounts are material for preparing our lists of investment and cannot be dispensed with.

26. By the vessel which we speedily intend to dispatch, we shall communicate to you our sentiments and determination respecting the donation of Sujah Dowlah to the Second Brigade.³

27. Having investigated the charges exhibited against some of the members of our late administration we have come to the following resolutions. "Resolved That it appears that the Conduct of the late President and Council of Fort William in Bengal in suffering Cantoo Baboo, the present Governor General's *Banyan*, to hold Farms in different *Purgunnahs* to a large amount, or to be security for such Farms, contrary to the Tenor and Spirit of the 17th Regulation of the Committee of Revenue at Fort William of the 14th May 1772, and afterwards relinquishing that Security, without satisfaction made to the Company, was highly improper, and has been attended with considerable loss to the Company; That the Governor General and Council be directed to prepare an exact statement of such losses or damages as the Company have sustained by their Servants permitting Cantoo Baboo and other Persons to withdraw the Security they had given, and to take the most effectual Measures for the recovery of the same; And there being reason to expect by the next Advices a further Investigation and Elucidation of those Charges which respect the receiving of Presents by the late President and Council at Fort William, as the Subject was under consideration of the Governor General and Council when the *Anson* left Bengal, and as in all probability Proceedings may have been had thereon before the Supreme Court of Judicature, that the Court of Directors do suspend their final determination on the said Charges till further lights shall enable them to decide thereon with precision. Resolved That it appears, that a considerable Sum of Money has been given by one of the Company's Tenants for holding the Salt Farms of Selimabad and Duccansavagapore in the Districts of Dacca, over and above the Engagement for those Farms to the Company, contrary to the letter and spirit of the 11th Regulation of the Committee of Revenue of the 14th of May 1772, and that Mr. Barwell has acknowledged having charged the said Tenant for his own Use, and the other Gentlemen of the Factory, with the Amount of Rupees 1,25,500 for permitting him to hold the said Farms."

28. Since passing the above resolutions the *Northumberland's* purser is arrived with your advices, and our concern is much increased on finding that improper influence and interference of our servants in the Revenue Branch has been much more general than we had been led to hope was the case, and that in the immediate views of private gain, the Company's interest has been greatly neglected.

29. The *Northumberland* having been obliged to stop at Lisbon, a small part only of your Consultations are yet arrived; and therefore we are still prevented for want of fuller information, from taking those immediate

and decisive measures which the situation of our affairs in Bengal may render necessary.

30. The powers and instructions vested in and given to General Clavering and the other gentlemen were such as fully authorized them in every enquiry that seems to have been their object, and we highly commend the indefatigable assiduity that evidently appears in their laborious researches, and their zeal for the interest of the Company and the welfare of individuals, as well natives as Europeans.

31. We have given you the resolutions of the Court already formed on a subject of such importance, and upon the completion of our examination of the papers, yesterday received by the *Northumberland*, we shall immediately send away the *Eagle* express which will be ordered to be in readiness at one of the out ports of the kingdom and will very probably reach you as soon as the present dispatches, bringing with her our full and final decision.

32. Since we acquainted you with our appointment of writers for the service of your Presidency this season, we have thought fit to entertain Wilton and Francis Macrabie in that station, and to rank in this order next under Charles Newman the last writer on the list of those of whom you have lately been advised.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

John Harrison/John Roberts/Jas.
Moffatt/Edwd. Wheler/Nath. Smith/Jn.
Woodhouse/J. Stables/Fredk. Pigou/
Heny. Savage/H. Fletcher/W. Devaynes/
Jno. Michie/Wm. James/Robt. Gregory.

London,
5th April 1776.
[Per *Triton*]

LETTER DATED 25 OCTOBER 1776

Sir Edward Vernon to command East Indies fleet—decision on Nabal Krishna's property purchased from Coote—Hastings's resignation—Wheler appointed member of Council.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

The ships *Triton* and *Hector* conveyed to you our General Letter of the 5th April last, the triplicate thereof you will receive herewith.

2. By the ships *Northumberland*, *Colebrooke*, *Salisbury*, *Ankerwyke*, *Godfrey* and *Hillsborough* we received your several advices described in the lists of the packets by those ships.

3. We have also received a letter from our Governor General dated

the 19th November by the *Salisbury* and letters from Lieutenant General Clavering, our Commander-in-Chief, dated 17th May, 21st July, 24th November 1775 and the 17th January 1776.

4. His Majesty having been pleased to order the *Rippon* of 64 guns the Honourable Captain William Waldegrave, and the *Cormorant* of 14 guns, Captain George Young, to proceed immediately to the East Indies under the command of Commodore Sir Edward Vernon we take this opportunity to communicate to you such advices as are necessary for your early notice.

5. Sir Edward Vernon hoists his broad pendant on board the *Rippon* to take upon him the chief command of His Majesty's fleet upon the departure of Sir Edward Hughes for Europe.

6. The directions given to your Presidency in our General Letters of the 8th March 1771 and the 5th April 1776, respecting the conduct to be observed and the allowances to be made to the Commander-in-Chief and the other officers of His Majesty's ships, are to be your guide until further orders.

7. The lists of the arrival of our shipping this season are as usual sent in the packets of the ships under dispatch.

8. The gentlemen who compose our Secret Committee this season are John Roberts Esqr., Chairman, William James Esqr. Deputy Chairman and George Cuming, John Harrison, John Manship, Frederick Pigou, Henry Savage and Edward Wheler Esqrs.; the orders they or any three of them may think proper to give as to the safety of our ships either outward or homeward bound must be strictly complied with.

9. From the year 1776 we have been trying an experiment for the better or rather for the more advantageous lading of our freighted ships, and being convinced that the contracting for them at builders' measurement is by far the most eligible we have continued that method for the present season and have accordingly entertained the undermentioned ships and assigned them the following voyages, vizt.

Ships	Tons	Commanders	Consignments
<i>Alfred</i>	758	James Williamson	Madeira, St. Henela, Bencoolen and China
<i>Stormont</i>	723	John Rogers	Madeira, Coast and China
<i>Princess Royal</i>	864	Robert Ker	Coast and China
<i>Prime</i>	864	James Dundas	
<i>Resolution</i>	804	Thomas Poynting	
<i>Royal Charlotte</i>	758	Joseph Cotton	
<i>Worcester</i>	723	John Cook	
<i>True Briton</i>	758	John Broadley	Madeira, Coast and Bay
<i>Egmont</i>	700	Charles Mears	
<i>Valentine</i>	676	James Ogilvie	
<i>Duke of Portland</i>	723	John Sutton	Coast and Bay
<i>Houghton</i>	707	William Smith	
<i>Duke of Kingston</i>	723	Robert Maw	

<i>Ceres</i>	723	Thomas Newte	} Coast and Bay
<i>Europa</i>	676	William Applegath	
<i>Sea-Horse</i>	676	David Arthur	
<i>Bridgewater</i>	804	William Parker	} St. Helena and Bencoolen
<i>Northington</i>	676	John Durand Junr.	
<i>Rochford</i>	723	John Baird	
			} Bombay and Bengal
			} Bombay and Fort St. George
<i>Hawke</i>	723	John Cotton	} Bombay
<i>York</i>	758	John Atkinson	
		Blanchard	
<i>Besborough</i>	864	Alexander Montgomery	Bombay and China

10. As we have stipulated with the owners that there shall be laden on each ship from the Coast and Bay, in part of her tonnage, three thousand bags of saltpetre and from Bombay one hundred and thirty bags of saltpetre for every one hundred tons the ship is let for, you must concert with our Presidency of Bombay to send thither the quantity they may want to comply with the above requisition ; and for the other particulars we must refer you to the copies of the charterparties which will be sent in the packets.

11. The following is the general view of our intended exports for the East Indies and China the ensuing season, vizt.

For Bengal. Cloth 786 bales, long ells 74 bales, 60 bales of broad long ells of 10 pieces each, lead 145 tons, copper 1189 tons, steel [...] tons, iron 64 tons, gunpowder 100 barrels and Madeira wine 220 pipes.

For Fort St. George. Cloth 290 bales and 18 bales of long ells, lead 50 tons, copper 450 tons, iron 200 tons, steel 10 tons, gun powder 540 barrels and 20 barrels of glazed double battle and Madeira wine 110 pipes.

For Bombay. Cloth 546 bales, long ells 151 bales and 20 bales of broad long ells of 10 pieces each, lead 100 tons, iron 150 tons, steel 70 tons, copper 350 tons, gunpowder 200 barrels, Madeira wine 50 pipes.

For China. Cloth 748 bales, 1250 bales of long ells and 20 bales of camblets, lead 320 tons, Madeira wine 6 pipes.

For Marlborough. Fine iron 30 tons, steel 10 tons, gunpowder 50 barrels.

12. Sir Eyre Coote has represented to us that when he commanded the army in Bengal in 1762 the then Nabob Cossim Ally Khan gave him a grant of a piece of ground contiguous to his house and gardens at Ghyretty near Chandernagore of the value of between two and three thousand rupees per annum which he afterwards disposed of to Nobkissen Moonshy¹ who has complained that he meets with obstructions in the management of this concern, we therefore direct that you cause an enquiry to be made into the complaint and if well founded to give Nobkissen Moonshy the quiet possession of his property. We herewith transmit you a copy of Sir Eyre Coote's request.

13. It having been represented to us that Mr. John Mackintosh who went to Bengal as a serjeant in the year 1774, is a person of family and had received a liberal education, we direct that he be appointed a cadet

on your establishment provided his conduct has been to your satisfaction; he served in the Second Brigade.

14. The state of publick affairs in this Kingdom with respect to America rendering it very uncertain as to the supply of military recruits for India this season we have been encouraged to hope that supplies may be obtained by prevailing on American prisoners to enter as volunteers in our service. And to effect that purpose we have ordered the ships *Duke of Portland*, *Bridgewater*, *Houghton*, *Ceres*, *Europa*, *Duke of Kingston*, *Northington*, *Rochford*, *Hawke*, *Sea-Horse*, *Besborough*, and *York* to proceed to Gibraltar in order to take in such of the prisoners who may be inclined to enter provided the number on each ship does not exceed one hundred recruits. Such other information as relates to these men or the numbers that may be allotted for each Presidency will be given you in our future advices.

15. It appearing by the accounts received from China that our Council would be in great want of cash to provide cargoes for the ships now at Canton, and depending principally on the assistance of our Presidencies we doubt not but you have complied with their pressing occasions; and as we apprehend they will still stand in need of large supplies we earnestly recommend it to you not only to furnish our China Council yourselves but concert with our other Presidencies the most effectual means for supplying them.

16. The gentlemen we have appointed to conduct the Company's affairs in China the ensuing season are Messrs. Edward Phipps, Matthew Raper, James Bradshaw, William Henry Pigou, George Rogers, Abraham Roebuck, Henry Browne, John Harrison, George Cuming, Alexander Bruce and Charles Edward Pigou who are also appointed Residents there in 1778 except Mr. Phipps.

17. As our Presidency of Marlborough still stands in need of assistance from our other settlements we must depend upon your complying with their indents particularly in the article of gunnies as from the want of them they have been obliged to send their pepper to England in bulk.

18. On the 15 instant the ship *Talbot* arrived at Cork from Bengal but as we received her packets only yesterday we have no time to advert upon their contents by this conveyance.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Jas. Moffatt/Robt. Gregory/Joseph Sparkes/
John Harrison/Daniel Wier/G. Wombwell/
T. B. Rous/Edwd. Wheler/Thos. Rumbold/
John Stables/John Roberts/Wm. James/Ben.
Booth/Samuel Peach/Fredk. Pigou/Richd.
Becher/W. G. Freeman/George Tatem/
George Cuming/Rd. Hall.

London,

25 October 1776.

[Per *Rippon & Cormorant*]

Postscript

[1.] Upon taking into consideration a letter lately received from Colonel Lauchlin Macleane, dated the 10th instant representing that he was authorized, empowered and directed to signify to us the desire of Warren Hastings Esqr. to resign his office of Governor General of Bengal and to request our nomination of a successor to the vacancy which would be thereby occasioned in the Council there, and it having appeared from an inspection of the powers with which Mr. Macleane was invested from Mr. Hastings and from collateral testimony in confirmation of such powers that Mr. Macleane was authorized to signify to us Mr. Hastings desire to resign his said office, we unanimously resolved to accept such resignation and thereupon, in consequence of the powers delegated by the Act of the 13th year of His Present Majesty, did nominate and appoint Edward Wheler Esqr. to succeed to the office in the Council of Fort William in Bengal, which would become vacant thereby, if such nomination should be approved by His Majesty to whom a proper memorial and petition was presented praying His Majesty's consent to such nomination agreeable to the directions of the said Act of Parliament, a copy of which memorial and petition is inclosed.

[2.] The dispatches by His Majesty's ships of war being unexpectedly detained we have the opportunity of acquainting you that Lord Viscount Weymouth, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, hath signified to us by his letter, of which we also inclose a copy, that the King is graciously pleased to approve of our nomination and that the proper instrument of His Majesty's approbation will be prepared accordingly for the royal signature.

[3.] The shortness of the time since we were informed of His Majesty's pleasure upon this nomination will not permit our writing more at large at present but whatever shall occur to us as necessary upon this alteration in the administration by the Presidency of Bengal will be communicated to you by our dispatch.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Benj. Booth/Geo. Wombwell/Jno. Harrison/
James Moffatt/Richd. Becher/T. B. Rous/
J. Stables/Robt. Gregory/John Roberts/Wm.
James/Daniel Wier/Fredk. Pigou/George
Cuming/Saml. Peach/Joseph Sparkes/Heny.
Savage/W. G. Freeman/Geo. Tatem.

London,
30th October 1776.

Enclosure 1

To the Honorable the Court of Directors of the United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies.

Gentlemen,

Mr. Hastings, "seeing the necessity of unanimity in the Supreme Council of Bengal for conducting the affairs of the Company there, and for establishing any permanent system of government for the good and prosperity of that country, and finding from the unhappy divisions which have subsisted in the Supreme Council that such union is not likely to subsist; and having anxiously on every occasion studied to promote the welfare of the Company, a conduct which he will ever continue" has, from these motives authorized, empowered and directed me to signify to you his desire to resign his office of Governor General of Bengal; and to request your nomination of a successor to the vacancy which will be thereby occasioned in the Supreme Council.

I have the honor to be with utmost respect,

London,
10th October 1776.

Gentlemen,
Your most obedient
humble servant,
L. Maclean.

Enclosure. 2

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The memorial and petition of the Court of Directors of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Most Humbly Shew,

That by an Act of Parliament made in the thirteenth year of Your Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act for Establishing certain Regulations for the better management of the affairs of the East India Company, as well in India as in Europe," it was (amongst other things) enacted, that for the Government of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, there should be appointed a Governor General and four Councillors and that the whole civil and military Government of the said Presidency, and also the ordering, management, and government of all the territorial acquisitions and revenues in the kingdoms of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa, should, during such time as the territorial acquisitions and revenues should remain in the possession of the said United Company, be, and were thereby vested in the said Governor General and Council of the said Presidency of Fort William in Bengal in like manner to all intents and purposes whatsoever, as the same then were or at any time theretofore might have been exercised by the President and Council or Select Committee in the said kingdoms; and it was thereby further enacted, that the said Governor General and Council, or the major part of them, should have, and they were thereby authorized to have power of superintending and controlling the government and management of the Presidencies of Madrass, Bombay, and Bencoolen

respectively, so far and in so much as that it should not be lawful for any President and Council of Madras, Bombay or Bencoolen for the time being, to make any orders for commencing hostilities, or declaring or making war against any Indian princes or powers, or for negotiating or concluding any treaty of peace with such Indian princes or powers without the consent and approbation of the said Governor General and Council, first had and obtained except in certain cases in the said Act mentioned; and it was thereby further enacted, that Warren Hastings Esqr. should be the first Governor General, and that Lieutenant General John Clavering, the Honorable George Monson, Richard Barwell Esquire, and Philip Francis Esquire should be the four first Councillors; and that they and each of them should hold and continue in his and their respective offices, for and during the term of five years from the time of their arrival at Fort William in Bengal, and taking upon them the government of the said Presidency, and should not be removeable in the meantime, except by Your Majesty upon representation made by the Court of Directors of the said United Company for the time being, and in case of the avoidance of the office of such Governor General by death, resignation, or removal, his place should during the remainder of the term aforesaid as often as the case should happen, be supplied by the person of the Council who stood next in rank to such Governor General, and in case of the death, removal, resignation or promotion of any of the said Council, the Directors of the said United Company were thereby empowered for and during the remainder of the said term of five years, to nominate and appoint, by and with the consent of Your Majesty, to be signified under Your Majesty's sign manual, a person to succeed to the office so become vacant in the said Council.

That at the time of passing the said Act, the said Warren Hastings and Richard Barwell were in Bengal, and the said John Clavering, George Monson and Philip Francis were in England.

That the said John Clavering, George Monson and Philip Francis arrived at Fort William in Bengal aforesaid on or about the twentieth day of October one thousand seven hundred and seventy four, and thereupon they, and the said Warren Hastings and Richard Barwell, took upon them the respective offices of Governor General and Council of the said Presidency to which they were appointed by the said Act of Parliament as aforesaid.

That the said Warren Hastings hath caused notice to be given to your petitioners the Court of Directors of the said Company of his desire to resign the said office of Governor General of Bengal.

That your petitioners the Court of Directors taking the said proposed resignation of the said Warren Hastings into consideration, have nominated and appointed Edward Wheler Esqr. to succeed to the office in the said Council, which will become vacant by the said resignation, if such nomination shall be approved by Your Majesty.

Your petitioners therefore most humbly pray that Your Majesty will be pleased to signify such consent by Your Majesty's sign manual as by the

said Act is required, that the said Edward Wheler may be appointed to succeed the office, which will become vacant in the said Council, by the aforesaid resignation of the said Warren Hastings.

And your petitioners shall ever pray.

East India House,
23rd October 1776.

James Moffatt/Samuel Peach/Frederick Pigou/
Thos. Bates Rous/Thos. Rumbold/Henry
Savage/Joseph Sparkes/John Stables/George
Tatem/Daniel Wier/George Wombwell/John
Robert/William James/Richard Becher/
Benjamin Booth/George Cuming/Wm. Geo.
Freeman/Robert Gregory/Richard Hall/John
Harrison/John Manship.

Enclosure 3

Court of Directors of the East India Company.

Gentlemen,

Having taken the earliest opportunity of laying before the King your memorial and petition to His Majesty, which was presented to me yesterday by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of your Company, I lose no time in acquainting you that the King is graciously pleased to approve of your nomination of Edward Wheler Esqr. to succeed to the office which will become vacant in the Council of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, in consequence of the resignation of Warren Hastings Esqr. Governor General, and the proper instrument of His Majesty's approbation will be prepared accordingly for the Royal signature.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient
humble servant,
Weymouth.

St. James's 25th October 1776.

[Enclosure]

The Honourable the Governor General and Council for all the Forces and affairs to the English nation at Fort William in Bengal.

Gentlemen,

The Court of Directors having previously to the receipt of His Majesty's approbation, under His Royal sign manual, of their appointment of Edward Wheler Esqr. to be one of the Counsellors of the Governor

General and Council at Fort William in Bengal, transmitted a commission nominating and appointing Mr. Wheler to the office of one of the said Counsellors, after the same shall become vacant, in the manner as is in the said commission mentioned, the said Court have ordered me to send you the inclosed copy thereof.

I am very respectfully,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient
humble servant,
P.M.
Secretary.

East India House, London,
12th November 1776.

[Per *Rippon* and
Cormorant]

[*Enclosure*]

The Honourable the Governor General and Council for all the Forces
and affairs of the English nation at Fort William In Bengal.

Gentlemen,

In obedience to the orders of the Court of Directors I transmit to you the enclosed copy of the instrument this day received from the Secretary of State under His Majesty's sign manual, approving of their nomination of Edward Wheler Esqr. to be one of the Counsellors of the Governor General and Council, created by an act of Parliament made in the thirteenth year of His Majesty's reign, of which nomination the said Court have advised you under date of the 30th of October last.

I am very respectfully,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient
humble servant,
P. Michell, Secretary.

East India House, London,
15 November 1776.

[*Enclosure*]

The Honourable the Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Gentlemen,

That you may receive the earliest account of the proceedings respecting the administration in Bengal by such conveyances as will probably

reach you in the most expeditious manner, the Court of Directors have especially ordered me to transmit to you by way of Bussorah and Grand Cairo, in two transcripts, under different covers, copy of the postscript under date of the 30th October last to their letter for the Presidency of Bengal of the 25th of that month, sent in duplicate by His Majesty's ships *Rippon* and *Cormorant* (which sailed from Spithead the 24th of this month) and copies of the several articles therein mentioned, together with copy of the minutes of the General Court held the 20th instant on the same subject which are accordingly now dispatched by the abovementioned route in conformity to the Court's commands.

I am very respectfully,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient
humble servant.

East India House, London,
26th November 1776.

24

LETTER DATED 24 DECEMBER 1776

Smuggling of tea to be checked—Austrian commercial enterprize in India to be discouraged—mismanagement of Nawab's finances—appointment of Muhammad Riza Khan approved—treaty with Asaf-ud-Daula—instructions for leasing lands—jurisdiction of Supreme Council over other Presidencies—permission in favour of French to import goods at Calcutta—dispute between Board of Trade and Council—monopoly in salt and opium—production of raw silk to be encouraged.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. By His Majesty's ships *Rippon* and *Cormorant* which sailed from Spithead the 24 ultimo, we wrote to you under date of the 26th October with a postscript of the 30th following, and our Secretary also wrote to you the 15th November enclosing His Majesty's approval of our appointment of Mr. Wheler to be one of the Council at Fort William in Bengal.

2. Our Secretary also transmitted letters to you overland, dated the 26th and 28th November, with copies of the postscript of our letter dated 30th October, and of the proceedings of the General Court of the 20th November.

3. Our agents at Madeira have our orders to lade on the ships *Egmont*, *Valentine* and *Stormont* two hundred and twenty pipes of wine

for your Presidency, and we have directed our President and Council at Fort St. George to land the seventy six pipes laden on the *Stormont*, and to forward them to you by the first opportunity, and we expect that you will report to us the quality of the wine and condition of the pipes, that if there should be any cause of complaint we may take the proper measures to procure redress.

4. Upon examining into the conduct of Captain Gamage relative to the condemnation of the ship *Asia*, it appeared that although she was reported by the Master Attendant, his deputy, the Company's carpenter and his assistant, to be unfit to receive a cargo for Europe, yet she afterwards made a voyage to Fort St. George with grain, which leads us to apprehend there was not that attention paid in the survey and making the report, which there ought to have been, and in this we are confirmed by your opinion afterwards respecting the *Britannia*. We observe that notwithstanding several of our commanders of Europe ships were on the survey, the report is not signed by any one of them, we therefore direct that all future surveys of our Europe ships be not only made by our Master Attendant, Deputy Master Attendant, carpenter and his assistant, but by the three senior captains of our freighted ships and their respective carpenters, if that number shall be in Bengal, if not, then by such commanders as are, and that the defects be particularly described in such reports and signed by all who shall be present.

5. We have examined into the conduct of Captain Rice of the *Dutton* for refusing to receive on board his ship thirty one discharged military and find your order was delivered to him only four days before the ship sailed from Ingellee, that on his receipt of it he held a consultation with his officers who were unanimously of opinion, the men could by no means be taken on board consistent with the health and necessary accommodations of the ship's crew who were very much straitened for room in consequence of the considerable number of gentlemen passengers with their attendants and baggage you had previously ordered on board, in order therefore to prevent future inconveniencies the commanders must have timely notice given them of the number of passengers they are to provide for.

6. In adjusting the accounts with the owners of shipping it is necessary to ascertain the number of passengers landed from each ship; we therefore direct that in future you transmit to us duplicates of the receipts given by the surgeons of the Company's ships for the head money, and also of those given by the commanders for victualling recruits.

7. Upon settling the account of freight with the owners of the *Dutton* there was wanting of that ship's invoice one bale of humhums marked HMM No. 23, containing one hundred pieces, and that there was received one chest of shellack marked with the Company's mark No. 1st, weighing net three hundred weight and sixteen pounds. We point out the above mistakes that in future more care be taken in loading the ships, that if any errors should happen to be made and afterwards discovered a

particular account thereof be sent us by the first opportunity.

8. We enclose copy of an order of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council granting us license to export to St. Helena, and our several Presidencies in the East Indies, one thousand five hundred barrels of gunpowder and to the amount of two thousand tons of ordnance, small arms and other warlike stores on the conditions mentioned in the said order. It will therefore be indispensibly necessary that you furnish us in triplicate, so far as depends on you, with the certificates required that we may avoid the heavy penalty to which we are liable if the bond given to the Crown on this occasion should be put in suit. We send in each ship's packet an exact account of the military stores for which bonds have been given that your certificates may correspond with the particulars inserted in the abovementioned bonds.

9. Having been informed that great quantities of tea¹ are imported at our several Presidencies by country ships and from thence laden on our homeward bound freighted ships in order to be smuggled in the English Channel, which being very prejudicial to our sales, we therefore direct that you send us a particular account of all teas imported and exported, and on what ships, as we are determined to take the most effectual means to put a stop to so growing an evil.

10. We send you by the ships *Egmont* and *Valentine*, two boxes of books of the state of the charity instituted here for the discharge and relief of persons confined for small debts, and we repeat our recommendation of the 25th March last, paragraph 18, to promote so benevolent an undertaking and permission to remit what contributions you may receive by bills of exchange.

11. Mr. Alexander Kyd whom we appointed a cadet on your establishment proceeded on the *Nottingham*, by the way of Fort St. George, in 1775, and was to rank as such from his arrival.

12. Lieutenant Peter Young who proceeded to Bengal on board the *Coventry* man of-war, had our permission to return to his duty without prejudice to his rank agreeable to the commission he produced to you.

13. In future we shall insert the names of the cadets in the list of passengers by the ships on which they proceed, and have given to each cadet a certificate of his appointment signed by our Secretary, and by the latter ships you will receive lists thereof with their rank.

14. You are hereby directed to grant a discharge to Samuel Jones the first, who by your last list of military received by the *Talbot*, was a corporal in the Third Brigade and went to Bengal on the *Latham* in 1772, and permit him to return to Europe.

15. The Christian name of Mr. Wilton, appointed a writer by our letter of the 5th April last, is Thomas, and that of Mr. Macrabie is Alexander instead of Francis as then advised.

16. Messrs. John Guichard Booth and Samuel Haselby, who had our leave to remain in England till this season, will proceed to their stations by this year's ships, and are on their arrival to rank agreeable to our

letter of the 15th December 1775.

17. We have appointed several writers for your Presidency this season ; the names of those who take passage on the ships under dispatch will appear by the list of passengers and we shall advise their rank by a future opportunity.

18. Your General Letter lately received by the *Talbot*, informs us of your having agreeably to our order of the 12th April 1775, appointed Mr. Leonard Collings to the post of Accountant at your Presidency, on its being vacated by Mr. Darell's resignation; and you also tell us that Mr. Larkins feels a disappointment at being deprived of an office, you, from his industry and abilities, intended to grant him. Now as we consider the sentiments of Mr. Larkins upon this occasion, as expressed in his letter entered on your Consultation of the 11th March, deserving our favorable notice, and as we think that the post of Accountant should be filled by a person who has regularly been initiated in the duty of that office, by serving as Sub-Accountant, you are hereby directed, upon the receipt hereof, to signify to Mr. Larkins that he has the option of being appointed Accountant, according to the permission granted him in our letter of the 15th December last (paragraphs 22 and 30) and upon the express terms on which the office of Accountant was originally instituted, namely, that he should continue fixt as youngest senior merchant without rising to a superior rank in our service.

19. And if Mr. Larkins should so accept of the Accountantship it is then our order that Mr. Collings be appointed Sub-Accountant. But as in such case Mr. Collings must also feel a disappointment on his part, we, under that consideration, consent to his enjoying the rank of senior merchant next under Mr. Larkins, and to have the pay and allowances which he now receives as Accountant continued to him ; but it is our positive direction that this indulgence be not drawn into a precedent after the Sub-Accountantship shall be vacated by Mr. Collings.

20. Nevertheless, if contrary to our expectation Mr. Collings from points of delicacy, should be unwilling to accept of this offer, you are then to provide for him in some manner, that with respect to advantage may be adequate to his present income as Accountant, until that post shall be vacated.

21. We are informed from unquestionable authority, that an enterprise of trade is in agitation by Mr. William Bolts^a (formerly in our service in Bengal) under Imperial colours, and the protection of the Queen of Hungary, in a large ship late the *Earl of Lincoln* now named the *Joseph and Theresa* which towards the end of June last imported at Leghorn from Lisbon, where, beside considerable quantities of goods before shipped, ordnance, ammunition and all kinds of military stores to a great amount, were received on board with a very valuable proportion of merchandize consisting principally of copper, iron and steel, brought thither by two Danish and a Dutch ship from Trieste, and as the Florentine Gazette published by authority avows "belonging to a Company erected in

Germany to carry on a Commerce between Trieste, and the Coast of Choromandel, where the House of Austria means to establish a new Factory." We are also given to understand that a number of Austrian soldiers, Lutherans were to be embarked at Leghorn on board the said ship which left that port the 25th September last with her consort an English brigantine, laden with provision for the voyage, and that both were from the Canary Islands to continue their course to the coast of Coromandel; for more minute particulars of this expedition you are referred to the accompanying extracts of a correspondence concerning it.

22. It remains for us by the present opportunity in the strongest manner to recommend to your serious and speedy consideration, either separately or conjunctively with our other Presidencies, to pursue the most effectual means that can be fully justified to counteract and defeat the same, observing at the same time that this commerce is not contrary to any treaty at present subsisting.

23. It will be particularly necessary to counteract this scheme in the beginning, because if the adventurers meet with but indifferent success in this first essay, it may discourage them from future attempts.

24. If their design to settle shall prove to be in the neighbourhood of your Presidency we particularly rely on your weight and efforts with the country powers to render their scheme abortive.

25. We further especially recommend the stopping all commercial and other intercourse of our covenant servants, and all under our protection, with the persons who conduct this expedition, or are concerned therein, and to prevent the latter from being furnished by any persons subject to your authority with money, goods, stores or any other assistance conducive to the execution of their plan; and in case of the breach of any order issued in this behalf it is left with you to shew a resentment adequate to the nature of the offence.

26. As there are sufficient reasons to conclude several British subjects are employed in the expedition who are by the laws of this kingdom, now in force, liable to be arrested and brought to Great Britain, if found in the East Indies without our license, we direct that you put such laws in force.

27. You will receive from us or our agents, by every opportunity in the course of the season, what further intelligence shall offer on this object that such measures may be taken as shall appear expedient in consequence thereof.

28. The disordered state of the finances of Mobarech ul Dowlah and the negligence of our late administration, respecting accounts and money transactions with him, are events so extra-ordinary and likely to be attended with consequences so very disagreeable that we cannot pass them over without the strongest animadversion.

29. By the report of our late President and his arrangement of the Nabob's household, as it stands on Consultation in January 1772, we were led to hope that even from the reduced stipend a considerable annual

saving would be made, and that our President's recommendation and strict injunctions to the Begum and to the Nabob's *Duan*, would have prevented any deviation from that arrangement.

30. We find the arrears due from the Company to the Nabob in January 1772 are stated at no less than nineteen lack twenty four thousand nine hundred and thirty five *sicca* rupees, and that during the residence of Mr. Middleton at Moorshedabad, from January 1772 to October 1774, the whole amount paid to the Nabob was sixty nine lack ninety thousand six hundred and eighty *sicca* rupees.

31. Your Sub-Accountant states the amount over paid to the Nabob, from April 1772 to October 1774, at seventeen lack eighty five thousand eight hundred and ninety three rupees, which sum we apprehend must include the arrears abovementioned, but supposing this to be the case, an empty treasury and the Nabob's clamorous creditors indubitably prove that an immense sum has been misappropriated between January 1772 and October 1774 ; and from the confusion of his accounts occasioned by the want of a proper officer near his person to conduct the affairs of his household, though we have sufficient proofs before us that the Nabob's domestics and attendants must have been deeply concerned in plundering their master, we are aware that it will be very difficult to ascertain such particular facts as may enable him to bring them to justice, and we fear it is utterly impossible to recover any part of the large sums embezzled or misappropriated.

32. Notwithstanding such vast sums have been carried to the Nabob's account, over and above his stipend in so short a space of time, we observe that in May 1776 there was not a rupee in his treasury, though there were demands upon him to a large amount ; this circumstance alone, were there no other improprieties in the conduct of Munny Begum, would justify her removal from the office of guardian to the Nabob, because it is evident, that under her immediate superintendence great part of his allowance must have been embezzled or very grossly misapplied.

33. We are the more at a loss to account for this immoderate overpayment to the Nabob, because we observe, on country correspondence, a letter from Governor Cartier dated 7th January 1772, notifying the reduction of his stipend in the most formal and solemn manner ; and by a minute of the Governor General on Secret Consultations of the 12 June 1775, it appears that the Committee of Circuit absolutely determined that the said reduction should take place from the time of such notification.

34. The Resident at the *Durbar* who has been the principal agent in this business, could not be ignorant of the above resolution because he was a member of the Committee, and it was the indispensable duty of our President and Council, not only to have taken care that, regular and frequent accounts of the advances made by the Resident at the *Durbar* to the Nabob were laid before them, but also of the expenditure of his stipend which should have been transmitted to us for our information, and we must conclude, that if they had done their duty in this respect such

unaccountable and extensive errors could not have happened in the accounts, the effects whereof must operate to our disadvantage as we do not find that his stipend^d will enable him to discharge the debts he has incurred ; and when we consider that the large overplus paid to the Nabob has really been dissipated in his infancy, and must either be a dead loss to the Company, or tend to distress him exceedingly by putting him under large stoppages, though his real wants are necessarily encreasing as he grows up to manhood, we cannot but manifest our resentment at the conduct of those of our servants whose remissness has in this instance involved both the Company and the Nabob in such great inconveniences.

35. The easy prey which the Nabob has been made to his menial servants, and their utter want of ability, integrity and attention to render him in any degree respectable, even in the eyes of the natives, are circumstances that have led us to reconsider our instructions to our late President and Council respecting Mahmud Reza Khan. We were always of opinion that an able, ostensible minister during the minority of the Nabob would be necessary, and late events have but too strongly confirmed us in such opinion, and as the abilities of Mahmud Reza Khan have been sufficiently manifested, as official experience qualifies him for so high a station, in a more eminent degree than any other native, with whom the Company has been connected, and as no proofs of maladministration have been established against him, either during the strict investigation of his conduct or since his retirement, we cannot, under all circumstances, but approve your recommendation of him to the Nabob to constitute him his *naib* ; we are well pleased that he has received that appointment, and authorize you to assure him of our favor so long as a firm attachment to the interest of the Company and a proper discharge of the duties of his station, shall render him worthy of our protection.

36. We are by no means prepared to decide upon that part of your instructions, which commits the administration of criminal justice entirely to the superintendence of Mahmud Reza Khan, nor of his plan for carrying the same into execution ; we observe it has had your approbation and therefore suppose it is at present operating in the country ; but whether in the present state of things such authority could be legally conferred on Mahmud Reza Khan, or whether his instructions to his inferior *phousdarry* officers will clash with the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, established by His Majesty's charter, are questions of too great importance for us to hazard an hasty opinion thereon. We have already laid before His Majesty's ministers a collection of such papers as must explain our embarrassments, occasioned by the extensive operation of the authority and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Judicature over natives not in the service of the Company, and if any alteration should be made in consequence of our application or otherwise, you will of course receive information. In the meantime copies of your instructions to Mahmud Reza Khan and of his plan for the execution of criminal justice, should be laid before the most eminent counsel in this kingdom, in order to obtain their opinions

whether any objections arise thereto in point of law, which opinions we shall transmit to you by the earliest opportunity for your information and future guidance.

37. It is with singular satisfaction, we observe, at any time, the attention paid by our servants to the great interests of their employers, and it is with particular pleasure we here signify our entire approbation of the late treaty, concluded with Asoph ul Dowlah, successor of Sujah Dowlah, by which such terms are procured as seem to promise us solid and permanent advantages.

38. Your compliance with the Nabob's request to furnish him with officers for the discipline of his troops, is a measure from which we do not at present see any inconvenience likely to arise ; at the same time we doubt not but you have taken such steps, and made such regulations, that whenever our officers shall be withdrawn the Company's affairs shall incur neither prejudice or danger from the improvement of his troops, in case of any future change of sentiments in the Nabob.

39. Although we have been furnished with many and important particulars, relative to the Treaty of Poonah and the transactions with Ragoba, by our Governor and Council of Bombay yet as we are not possessed of your opinion on the terms stipulated, we shall for the present defer entering upon the subject till we have such full information as may enable us to give you our final sentiments and determination on an event of such importance to the Company.

40. Before we enter upon the very important consideration of measures to be pursued and directions to be given, with respect to the new grants of leases on the Bengal lands, we are glad to testify our singular approbation of the care and attention of the several members of our Council, in transmitting to us such accurate and clear statements and plans as have given us great information, and we are only to signify our expectation that you will continue, from time to time furnish us with authentic and digested materials for regulating our judgment on this great department of your Presidency.

41. Having considered the different circumstances of letting your lands on leases for lives or in perpetuity we do not, for many weighty reasons, think it at present adviseable to adopt either of these modes, but, in the meanwhile, we direct that the lands be let for the succeeding year on the most advantageous terms and that none be in future let by public auction.

42. But in every disposal of the lands it is our strict injunction that a preference be given and every indulgence shown to the natives resident on the spot, and that no European, nor the *banyan* of any European, be permitted to hold any share therein, from which injunction we however except the Jungleterry or Corry Jury lands where the superior knowledge of our own people may be of great service, by clearing such parts as lie uncultivated, and where such mischiefs are not likely to be produced as are too generally found to attend the measure of letting lands to Europeans,



Asafud-Daulah

43. We direct that demands be made on the respective land holders for all outstanding balances or arrears of rent, and that every just and proper step be taken to realize such sums as may stand an apparent value on our books; but if it shall appear, from such circumstances as require lenity, that these balances cannot be collected the whole or part thereof may be remitted, for which we must depend on the judgment and discretion of our Governor General and Council whose local knowledge will best enable them to decide with accuracy and precision.

44. We approve of your letting the province of Dinagapore to the Rajah for life as an experiment, the issue of which will, in some measure, enable us to judge of the propriety of adopting a general system on similar principles; but you will not proceed further in letting other districts or lands on the like terms till our future orders.

45. We are sorry to observe that you appear to entertain an opinion of the controlling powers vested in the Governor General and Council of Bengal over our other Presidencies beyond what, in our opinion, is authorized by the late Act of the legislature. This observation arises from your interference with our Governor and Council of Fort St. George to prohibit them from sending troops out of their own districts for aid to our settlement of Bombay. Although the said Act expressly forbids any of the other Presidencies to engage in political negotiations with the natives or foreign nations, without the participation and concurrence of the Supreme Council, yet it certainly leaves each distinct government power to take, from time to time, such steps as the immediate exigency of their affairs may require for self defence or protection, or for the necessary aid or assistance to be given to other settlements, and on this principle we must disapprove your interference in this case.

46. In consequence of our orders for discouraging the trade of the French you were induced to prohibit that nation from importing cargos at your Presidency; but as it appears, from your representation, that the intended effect is not likely to be produced, and that the Company will lose the additional import duties on such French cargos as may be transported by other channels into the provinces, we have the less objection to your permitting the French to land their goods at Calcutta, relying on your prudence to obviate as much as possible any detriment that individuals may sustain by your withdrawing the above prohibition.

47. With respect to the claims³ of the French and Dutch nations to their right of the trade in saltpetre and opium, which matter you do not yet appear to have determined, we think that at present it is expedient to allow them to receive the same quantity as has been usually granted them at prime cost on their paying for the same.

48. We cannot but think that the fees and salaries annexed to the officers of the Supreme Court of Justice are very high, but as by the minutes and debates on Consultations, this matter appears to have been very amply discussed, and every argument adduced that could establish the ground and reasons for assent to or dissent from such fixed emoluments,

we shall not enter into any further observations on the subject but acquiesce, for the present, in the establishment of such fees and salaries. But if, in consequence of our representation of the inconveniences the Company sustain by the present mode of administering justice at your Presidency, any alteration should be adopted we trust that you will not readily acquiesce in any plan that shall not be formed with more economy till the same shall be transmitted to us for our final determination.

49. We think the allowance of five thousand rupees to Colonel Stibbert very large, but as we imagine and trust that it has not been settled without proper consideration, and that the same was unavoidable from the peculiar circumstances of the service, we shall not withhold our assent, but we direct that the money for secret service be not fixed at the certain sum of one thousand three hundred and thirty three rupees, but that the Colonel shall be paid such expences as shall appear to you to have been necessarily incurred by him, from time to time on that account.

50. As we intend in our next advices to give you full directions respecting the bills to be drawn upon us from your Presidency it is our positive order that you do not grant any bills of exchange or certificates, on any account whatever, until the receipt of those advices.

51. Having considered the representation in your General Letter of the 20th March 1776, respecting the building a church in Bengal as likewise the letter from our chaplain on the same subject, and being willing to promote so useful and pious a work, especially as it may be in some sort derogatory from the dignity of the Company, that our servants should be without a decent place of worship, we direct that an estimate of the expence attending such a building be made, and together with a plan of the same sent to Europe by the first conveyance, when we will take the matter into consideration.

52. We have no objection to make the *Ranny* of Burdwan a present for the celebration of her son's nuptials, if such a compliment is customary on similar occasions, but as you must be the best judges of this we leave it entirely to you to do as you shall think proper, only premising, if you judge it reasonable, she should be allowed a sum of money for this purpose, that it must be only to a moderate amount.

53. We think the institution of a Board of Ordnance as planned by General Clavering may be of singular utility, the regulations of that Board already adopted seem highly proper and we have no doubt but such care will be taken and such alterations or amendments arising from circumstances be introduced as will contribute to answer every purpose of the original plan.

54. We observe with great concern the misunderstanding between our Governor General and Council and the members of the Board of Trade, which we are led to think must originate from a want of close attention to the rules and institutions first laid down at the establishment of that Board; we cannot however avoid enforcing the observance and cultivation of harmony in the different departments, which can long

contribute to your tranquillity and the ready dispatch of business.

55. We have particularly attended to your disputes with the Board of Trade respecting the provision of the investment, our orders for which, according to the 17th article of our instructions, are to be transmitted through your hands to the Board of Trade, with power vested in you to limit their purchases, should the demand at any time exceed your ability, and whenever it shall happen that we have not ourselves fixed the amount of the investment, or having fixed it, that from the situation of our affairs it can with propriety be encreased, our Governor General and Council are empowered to regulate the same within proper limits. As they have before them the state of our resources and disbursements and must therefore have a certain knowledge of what can be applied to this purpose, after providing for other exigencies in these cases, our Governor General and Council will signify their orders and directions to the Board of Trade to make provision accordingly, as it is our intention that this Board shall entirely have under them the executive part of the business, and only the amount of the investment be subject to the control of our Supreme Council.

56. We have considered the representations of the Board of Trade and their dissatisfaction at not being consulted in your negotiating the treaties with Asoph ul Dowlah, Rajah Cheyt Sing and the Mahrattahs but we do not see they had any just ground of complaint on that occasion ; the abovementioned treaties not being likely in their remotest consequences to affect those concerns over which the Board of Trade can with any propriety preside or in which they have a right to interfere.

57. Upon considering the necessary business of providing conveyances for transportation of goods from one part to another in India when the Company's ships cannot be spared for that service, we direct that our Governor General and Council do refer all arrangements of this kind to the management of the Board of Trade, these being wholly commercial matters and as such naturally coming under their proper cognizance and direction.

58. The Board of Trade have a right to suspend the commercial servants under their direction, which suspension shall not be taken off, nor the persons restored to their respective offices by the interposition of our Governor General and Council.

59. Although surgeons residing at any of the commercial factories, are to be under the control of the Board of Trade, so long as they are resident at such factories, they must nevertheless be subject to be recalled by the Governor General and Council.

60. Having attended particularly to your proceedings in the Revenue Department, relative to the censure passed on Mr. James Grant by the Council of Moorshedabad, we not only concur with you that he stands clearly acquitted of the charges brought against him, but that if his zeal for the Company had really subjected him to the odium of others, or placed him in any disagreeable predicament, as suggested in the minute of Mr. Francis, it was highly proper to shew him such marks of approbation, as might.

convince our servants in general, that a steady attention to our interest should on all occasions find protection and encouragement.

61. At the same time that on this principle we approve your appointment of Mr. Grant to a seat in the Council of Moorshedabad we cannot but regret that your favor to him, could not have been conferred without mortifying circumstances to his senior Mr. Cowper, with whose conduct we have also reason to be satisfied, and of whose abilities we have conceived a very favourable opinion.

62. Being therefore desirous to pay every due regard to his merits in the service we direct that Mr. Cowper be forthwith appointed a member of our Revenue Council at Dacca and that the number be extended to six members on that account; but it is our express order that whenever the number shall again be reduced to five, no other member shall be added, nor the present appointment made a precedent on any future occasion.

63. The mode of conducting your treasury has been duly remarked by us in which you appear to have very properly pursued such a plan as the indispensable nature of the business would admit, and which must therefore meet with our full and entire approbation.

64. Having received information in your General Letter of the 20th November, and the letter from the Board of Trade dated 31st October 1775, of the death of Mr. Middleton, and the regular succession taking place on that event, as we have every reason to be satisfied with the character and ability of Mr. William Aldersey, we hereby signify our approbation of his succeeding Mr. Middleton, and accordingly confirm him in the office of President of the Board of Trade.

65. We are very sorry to find that you have entered into an engagement with Major Tolley for making a navigable canal, fearing that it may be detrimental to Colonel Watson's docks in the land whereof we have granted him the lease, sent you by this packet, which we hereby direct you to comply with. If Major Tolley has begun his works and expended his money in consequence of your agreement, we apprehend it is not in our power to revoke it, but you must insist on such engagements and stipulations, as may preserve Colonel Watson's docks from damage.

66. We observe that our general ideas respecting the realizing of our Bengal revenues in England, as contained in the 19th paragraph of our letter of the 3rd March 1775, perfectly coincide with your sentiments, and we are extremely happy to find that the state of our resources in Bengal, as explained by your various minutes and proceedings, and particularly by Mr. Francis, in an estimate accompanied by very judicious remarks, has rendered the nominal price of our investment no longer an object of consequence.

67. We are however very sorry to observe that our orders in the 27 paragraph of our said letter, for restrictions on the commerce of individuals under the Company's protection have had ideas affixed to them very different from those entertained by the Court of Directors when they issued those orders.

68. It was certainly intended to restrain our servants, and all persons whatever under their immediate and particular influence, from an improper interference in those articles of Bengal commerce which compose the Company's investment, but such restriction was never designed to affect the natives in general, and all other persons under our protection without distinction, as is suggested in some of the minutes before us. We expect that our investment be always provided on the best terms possible, without being obliged to purchase it of our servants or their agents at an advanced price, as no benefit can accrue thereby to the native manufacturers. This investment being provided, or the means of securing it on equitable terms fully established, we would impose no other restraint on that freedom of trade which is so necessary to the prosperity of the country, and in its consequences to the East India Company.

69. The Governor General and all persons concerned in the revenues are specifically and absolutely precluded from trading in India, and we deem it equally necessary that their *banyans* should be laid under proper restrictions, which has not been the case, for we find that the late Governor's *banyan* has been permitted to contract largely for the provision of the Company's investment, which we positively forbid in future.

70. Our opinion has never varied respecting the propriety of an open and free trade, abstractedly considered, but when we were given to understand by our President and Council that whatever flattering ideas might have been formed by us, or the public, of the revenues of Bengal, they were found inadequate to the purposes of defraying our expences, and providing a very small investment when those declarations were followed by large drafts on the Court of Directors, and the goods purchased therewith would not realize in England the amount of prime cost in Bengal; when in addition to these circumstances we found it asserted that all proposals for providing the investment by contract with *dadney* merchants had a direct tendency to establish the very worst of monopolies, and that instead of improvements an immediate loss of 25 per cent, debasement of the manufactures and deficiency of quantity were to be expected; that since trade had been laid open, goods had been obtained for the Company with great difficulty, the quality really debased, the price of raw silk advanced 80 per cent and piece goods since the year 1768 from 50 to 60 per cent, and that a further advance of 40 per cent might possibly happen in consequence of removing all restraints on commerce throughout the provinces, it surely behoved us, however repugnant to our general ideas of the propriety of allowing freedom of trade, to consider of and return to such coercive measures as might prevent further inconvenience to the Company, who from these representations were apprehensive that they must export from hence a valuable consideration for the produce of Bengal or pay for the same by bills of exchange, at least to a considerable amount, or give up all thoughts of receiving an investment from that country. But we turn with pleasure from this disagreeable detail, and being now assured that every charge, civil and military, may be provided for by the resources of Bengal,

93 lacks of rupees appropriated to our commercial establishments and investments, 20 lacks for other settlements, and a surplus of 10 lacks remain for contingents, exclusive of 'outcry profits on salt and opium, and of drafts on the Court of Directors, we must own that the principal objections to a free trade are removed, and therefore embrace this first warrantable opportunity of empowering you to suspend the execution of such part of our orders as impose restrictions on the commerce of individuals, provided you are absolutely certain it may be done consistent with the due provision of an ample and well chosen investment for the Company.

71. We should not hesitate to revert immediately to the old system of providing goods in general, by contract with native merchants were it possible to be assured that this measure could be adopted with success, and that freedom of trade would be thereby promoted, and the necessary quantity of goods of a proper quality obtained in due time for the return of our ships to Europe; but we doubt whether there are at this time in Bengal, native merchants possessed of property adequate to such undertakings, or of credit and responsibility sufficient to make it safe and prudent to trust them with such sums as might be necessary to enable them to fulfil their engagements with the Company. However contracts may be immediately tried for coarse articles, or for other goods, to as great an extent as can be done without risking too much of our property and the timely provision of our investment, the amount whereof must on no account be hazarded even for a single season.

72. It is also a matter of serious consideration, if absolutely requisite to make large advances of money to natives of any denomination, on any account whatever, whether upon the non-performance of their contracts, such monies and penalties, if incurred, can be recovered in the country courts or in a summary way, as formerly, without having recourse to the Supreme Court of Judicature in case no alteration should be made in the jurisdiction of that Court.

73. The vigilance and due interposition of the *Naib Subadar* we apprehend may prevent monopolies and improper treatment of the manufacturers by the merchants and correct abuses in general amongst the natives, but how far his influence may be suffered to operate to the securing of our property when legally advanced to them, we are not at present able to determine.

74. We wish it may be practicable to indulge our commercial servants in every branch of trade not prohibited by law. But if attachment to their own interest should preponderate we are convinced they will have it in their power to procure better goods and on more reasonable terms than can be provided for the Company. You will therefore give this particular object the most deliberate consideration before you authorize a measure of so much importance, which nothing but the greatest fidelity in our servants can render consistent with the interest of the Company.

75. We direct that our Board of Trade make frequent and strict enquiry whether those persons who are stationed by them at the different

aurungs, take proper care to improve themselves in the knowledge of such parts of our investment as come under their superintendence, and it is our order that such of our servants as acquire a proper knowledge of the fabric, and become the means of improving the quality of the manufactures, be suitably distinguished, and not removed from their stations, so long as their conduct shall merit such distinction, or until called to fill superior offices in our service.

76. In regard to the salt trade of Bengal we apprehend that the monopoly on its present footing can be no considerable grievance to the country. It has ever been in a great measure an exclusive trade and we think no tax can be levied upon it that shall be less oppressive to the consumer; and as we are not certain, that our occasions do not require the whole supply arising from this article, we direct, that for the present the plan adopted by our late President and Council be continued unless you shall be able to obtain to the amount of one hundred thousand pounds sterling per annum for the Company, by an additional duty on salt, and are of opinion that such amount may be realized by imposing a tax thereon, with less inconvenience to the country, and be liable to fewer objections than is the case in the present mode of receiving a profit on salt by sales at auction.

77. If you shall be of opinion that abolishing the monopoly of opium will contribute in any great degree to the relief of the natives, we authorize you to give up that commodity as an article of commerce, only fixing and reserving a reasonable duty thereon to the Company, which we think should not exceed 30 *sicca* rupees per maund.

78. It has been a frequent instruction to our servants to yield all suitable encouragement for the cultivation of the mulberry plant and for the increase of raw silk. We repeat those orders, and are persuaded if due regard be had thereto, our investment in this article may be greatly extended and a sufficient quantity remain to supply the trade of India, and thereby to procure cotton for the province of Bengal without exporting your specie for that raw material; and we earnestly recommend the subject to your consideration. We are informed that vast tracts of land, at present of little value, may be cleared and rendered capable of producing mulberry shrubs, and your attention to their cultivation will most essentially promote the interest of the Company and of the nation, raw silk and especially filature silk being a very beneficial article of our imports and of great consequence to the manufactures of Britain.

79. Having thus given you our sentiments and directions on several important subjects, arising from your letters and records, we shall in our next dispatches proceed to consider such further parts of your correspondence as yet remain unnoticed, and to pursue the necessary investigation of the affairs of your Presidency that you may co-operate with us in the vigorous and steady prosecution of such measures as will conduce to the interest of the Company, the increase of your own honor and the welfare of the provinces committed to your care.

London,
4th December 1776.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,
John Roberts/Wm. James/Daniel Wier/
Robt. Gregory/George Tatem/George
Cuming/John Stables/Fredk. Pigou/Rd.
Hall/W. G. Freeman/Jas. Moffatt/Richd.
Becher/Samuel Peach/John Harrison.

LETTERS TO COURT

LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 1773

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We now have the honour to address you by the ship *Triton* who proceeds from hence to Fort St. George where it is intended she shall compleat her lading.

2. Our last advices were dated the 10th of December, per the *Greenwich*; duplicates whereof, we intend dispatching by the *Prince of Wales* who will quit this the 15th instant directly for Europe and of course ought to arrive much sooner than the *Triton*.

3. We have permitted several persons to go in this ship as passengers only to Madrass, a list of them is enclosed; their intention is to proceed to Europe but we would not determine the passage absolutely for the whole voyage as the Presidency of Madrass has requested that we should leave the accommodations of the few ships destined for their port to their disposition, which we judge but reasonable. A list of persons licensed to depart on this ship on the terms of charterparty is enclosed, their passage having been defrayed here by the Military Paymaster General. We have permitted two bulses of diamonds to be sent to Europe in this ship by Brigadier General Sir Robert Barker, a register of them is enclosed.

Fort William,
6th of January 1773.
[Per *Triton*]

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants,
Warren Hastings etc.
Council.

LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1773

Col. Campbell's work commended—drafts for Lord Clive's jagir—new Mayor and Sheriff for Calcutta—Col. Morgan's resignation—Major Lillyman's appointment as Chief Engineer—disputed claims of army ranks referred to court of enquiry—Dutch proposal for combined survey of the river between Kalpi and Hijili.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Since we had the honour of addressing you by the *Greenwich* we wrote you a short letter by the *Triton*, Captain Elphinstone, who was dispatched for Madras on the 6th instant as had been the *Nassau*, Captain Gore, on the 15th ultimo.

2. Duplicates of these dispatches go by the present occasion of the *Prince of Wales*, Captain Court, who carries home a lading to the amount as per invoice of Rs. 10,60,900.

3. Our address by the *Triton* informs you of our having granted leave to sundry persons to proceed to Madras on that ship with the reasons which induced us to refer them to that Presidency for leave to continue their voyage to Europe. A list of their names was sent with the ship; it only now remains, in conformity to your instructions, to mention their particular cases and the footing on which they resign your service.

4. Lieutenant Colonel Campbell of whose former application you were duly advised renewed it this season. The alarm of a European war¹, which led us to look upon his continuance in the service as a matter of indispensable necessity and himself to regard it as a duty superior to all other considerations, being now subsided, we consented to his resignation at this time. It is with the warmest sense of your attention to the security of this settlement that we acknowledge the benefit we have received from your nomination of Colonel Campbell to direct and superintend the fortifications in these parts. The superior talents he has displayed in all his designs and the masterly hand with which he has executed them will evince to all the world the wisdom and propriety of your choice; we are happy in giving our testimony to it and can, with truth, assure you that there is no mark of your approbation or recommendation of his abilities which you may think fit to bestow but what will be sufficiently justified by his conduct and his works here. He seems above all things ambitious of obtaining this reward, the acknowledgment from his honourable masters of your satisfaction in his services, and we think it our duty to give our opinion how far he is deserving of it.

5. By this ship you will receive a copy of his report on the state of sundry of your garrisons in this country which he took occasion of visiting before his departure. He had also left, in deposit, with our President a plan fully detailed for the defence of Fort William and the other posts on this river in case of an attack by an European enemy, which we think may be of the greatest utility in that event; he has accompanied it with an exposition of his ideas

Consn.
17th December.

Consn.
17th December.

on the general line of defence for the river Hughly and the contiguous country in case of a descent in that quarter ; as far as we are able to judge it seems just and practicable, and we find it to correspond greatly with the ideas of your Commander-in-Chief on this subject, and with a plan which he had sketched out some time ago. These two last papers of Colonel Campbell's we judge improper to be entered on our proceedings or exposed to accident in sending home unless he should be deprived of the opportunity of supplying you with copies himself as he intends.

6. Captain J. Smith applied to us representing the hardships, he thought, he had sustained by some late determinations on the ranks of sundry officers now above him in the service and requesting to be appointed a Major as matter of right. On due consideration of his case we did not find his pretensions founded but as he intimated that his intention was to quit the service and that he only wished to retire without cause of dissatisfaction and with the rank he would have been entitled to, had he continued on the footing he stood before the determinations he complained of, and the General having recommended this compliance we thought fit to grant him, in the way of favor, the commission he requested. We flatter ourselves you will not esteem this an improper indulgence, under these circumstances, to an officer who has served long and well and who soon must have obtained in course what he now received as a favor, without any prejudice to the establishment or injury to the pretensions of other officers. His resignation followed immediately after and a passage was granted him to Madrass, from whence he proposes to proceed on the *Nassau* to England.

7. Captain Callender has also obtained our permission to resign, as he is a young man of irreproachable conduct and having no particular cause of disgust, we believe that his desire of resignation proceeded from a determined resolution of quitting the military profession for ever.

8. Lieutenant Roberts stands in a different predicament; a dangerous state of health alone urged him to request leave to go home. As he is an officer of approved merit we beg leave to recommend him to your favor to be restored to his rank and service in case the circumstances of his health should permit him to solicit it.

9. We also permitted Lieutenant Charles Duffin and Lieutenant Ewen Baillie and Mr. William Campbell, an acting Ensign, to resign and to embark on the same ship.

We granted a passage by her to Mr. James Clerk, late 3rd mate of the *Albany*, on his application.

10. We further permitted Mr. William Tatterson, an Ensign, disordered in his mind, to be sent on board the *Triton*, but we have just learned that he is again returned to town by what accident we are not yet acquainted.

Consns.

21st December;

28th December;

31st December.

Consn.

28th December.

Consn.

28th

December.

Consn.

8th January.

11. The duplicate sent will give the names of such persons as were embarked in terms of the charterparty.

12. Captain Elphinstone gave in a bill for^t victualling the recruits from Madrass to the amount of rupees 1222, which we paid as usual and referred him to you for a further claim of rupees 200, for necessaries furnished them during the passage.

Consn.
6th January.

13. After this account of the passengers by the *Triton* it may not be improper, for the sake of connection, to take notice immediately of such as embark by this ship.

14. Mr. Cartier having continued here ever since his quitting the chair, for the purpose of settling his affairs, now goes a passenger with his family along with Captain Court. Your orders respecting him have been literally obeyed, and we have endeavoured to treat him with all the attention you are pleased to prescribe and which coincide so much with our sentiments of what is due to the station he held as well as his private character.

Consn.
11th January.

15. Mr. James Harris, a member of your Council here, retires at this time and is permitted to go home with his family in the *Prince of Wales*.

This gentleman, consonant to your instructions in craving leave to resign, has reserved at the same time his claim to your favor should circumstances induce him to solicit a return to the service.

Consn.
11th January.

16. We have granted leave to Mr. Marriot to return to Europe for the benefit of his health, upon his representation and the attestation of two of your principal surgeons in the settlement as to the necessity of such a voyage for his recovery. He has been some time employed in the business of your collections, and we can venture to recommend him to you as a young man of a good understanding and an irreproachable character.

17. Lieutenant Samuel Harrison has also obtained our leave to resign the service on account of his health and goes by this ship.

Consn.
11th January.

18. Mr. Darall sends two children home by this same opportunity.

Ditto.

19. By this we send our proceedings up to the last day of December 1772, and by the *Grafton* who will be dispatched in 15 days shall continue them for this month.

20. Since the departure of the *Greenwich*, the *Rockingham* and *Hector* arrived both from Bombay with cotton on the Company's account.

21. The gentlemen of that Presidency advise us of their having drawn on us to the amount of rupees 50,273-8 and which we have ordered to be duly honoured, and we have taken up through the agency of the Resident at the Durbar² bills on Surat to be remitted them to the amount of 3,06,001 rupees.

22. The *Rockingham* and *Hector* will be dispatched with full cargoes, the first on the 20th February, the last on the 20th March. We have fixed

these periods to give time for the goods to arrive from the subordinates, but should their dispatches arrive sooner you may depend upon it that the vessels shall not be delayed a moment in loading them.

23. The attorney of Lord Clive having applied to us for drafts on the Company to the amount of his Lordship's *jaghire* for the last year, we made no hesitation in granting them as you have in your orders, which ascertain the sum to be drawn this year for the accommodation of your servants, expressly declared it to be exclusive of his Lordship's *jaghire*, but as a requisition was also made for the amount of the former year and it having been refused at the time because no drafts were granted that season on the Company it became matter of deliberation with us. On referring to your orders and advices on the subject we find there never has been any alteration in them since the beginning when that channel of remittance was granted to his Lordship, and as in all your subsequent instructions for drafts on you we observe a clause in favor of his Lordship, over and above the general sum fixed, we judge the refusal last year to have arisen from a misinterpretation of these orders, and have now agreed to receive the amount of the former year also into our treasury for drafts, with an optional clause however in the bills which leaves you at liberty to suspend the payment for 12 months, paying the interest at 3 per cent per annum from the time the bills become due. This condition we thought necessary for preventing any inconveniency which might arise to you from so large a payment at one time, and it was at first suggested by the attorney to his Lordship in his address to the Board; a list of the bills amounting to £ 67,499-3-9 in all goes a number in this packet.

24. We have also granted bills to the amount of current rupees 13,615-13-6 to Mr. Darell, agent to the Marine Society, it being the only means of remittance to that charity the funds they have collected here, and we trust you will pardon this liberty in favour of so laudable an undertaking which we know to be patronized in a particular manner by your Honourable Court.

25. In further part of the £ 100,000 for which you permitted us to draw this season, we have by this ship granted drafts to the amount of £ 4183 ; a register where of goes enclosed.

26. The Mayor's Court having presented to us Messrs. John Evelyn and Cornelius Goodwin, two of the Aldermen, for our election of a Mayor to serve the ensuing year we chose the former, and the oaths were administered to him in due form within the time limited by Charter; Mr. G. Bright was chosen as Sheriff.

27. Several of the field officers having again represented to us the hardship they suffer from the share of the commission allotted to their rank being divided with the supernumeraries lately appointed, and alledging that as these gentlemen are expressly limited by your orders to the pay and *batta* of captains, they presume it was your intention also that they should not have the

benefit of the commission but the whole should be paid to the establishment entire.

28. This matter being already deferred to your decision we have declined any definitive resolution upon it, but considering that to allow the supernumeraries to draw their shares in the meantime would be in fact a determination, so far, in their favour. For this reason we resolved to retain these shares as a deposit in our hands till your pleasure be known. The letter of the field officers with a minute of the generals upon it is in the proceedings referred to in the margin [?].

29. Mr. Vansittart will be immediately called to a seat at our Board vacant by the resign of Mr. Harris.

30. Colonel Morgan judging himself aggrieved by the late orders relating to him has requested permission to resign and to return to England.

Consn.
21st December. We have granted it and now take the liberty to recommend his memorial to your consideration, and also to inform you that upon due enquiry we have found the fact, he alledges, respecting his conduct in the affair of the resignation, to be literally as he represents it.

31. On Lieutenant Colonel Campbell's resignation we were somewhat doubtful as to the right of naming a successor since your orders prescribe that the rank of no officer who goes home by permission for health or otherwise shall be filled up untill your pleasure is known, but on a mature consideration of this paragraph, we were unanimously of opinion that your orders only regarded such officers as go home with a declared intention to apply for leave to come out again and that it could not be meant to stop the regular succession through all the army in case of officers absolutely resigning the service. For these reasons we appointed Major Lilliman to succeed as Chief Engineer with the rank, pay and emoluments of Lieutenant Colonel, Captain Fortnom to succeed Lieutenant Colonel Lilliman as Director and Major and Lieutenant Penman to succeed Major Fortnom as Sub-Director and Captain.

32. We are sorry to acquaint you that Captain Evans commanding a battalion in your service was shot dead at the head of his troops by a sepoy officer whom he had reduced for bad behaviour.
Consn.
21st December. Captain Camac next in command called a council of officers on the spot and had the ruffian dragged to death by horses in the front of the line. So exemplary a punishment, although perhaps attended with some irregularity, we deemed highly necessary on so extraordinary an occasion and approved of Captain Camac's conduct accordingly.

33. Many claims of rank being presented to the Board from different officers, founded chiefly on the various circumstances which attended the resignation in 1766 and the subsequent restoration at different times and on different conditions, and your Council finding themselves so fully engaged in affairs of

more moment, we have thought fit to refer these claims to a court of enquiry as it is usual in similar cases in His Majesty's service. The court is to consist of the field officers at the Presidency. They are to enquire into all those claims, to examine them accurately and to report to us for our final decision; our determinations upon these will be duly noted to you.

34. We have been necessitated to dismiss Lieutenant Hook from your service for his contumacious and disrespectful behaviour to us.

Consn.
18th December. Although we cannot in justice accuse him of any crimes of a heinous or dishonourable nature yet his obstinate and refractory spirit has repeatedly brought him to a court martial and we judge such a character of prejudice in the army. The disputes and trials which his conduct has given rise to, are not yet ended; when they are, they shall be sent you complete that you may have the whole before you for your judgement at one view.

35. Mr. Peacock whom you sent out to be employed in conjunction with Mr. Christie in the business of procuring timbers for the Company's use having separated himself from the latter returned here last summer with some pines etc., as advised in our list to the Master Attendant, and having delivered in a bill of expences, incurred by him, satisfied us that his separation from Mr. Christie was mutually agreed to for the better fulfilling their engagements to the Company; we deemed it just to allow him his demand, but for the appointments he claims we referred him to your Honourable Court as you will be better able to judge of the salary which may be adequate to his services, taking into consideration his proffers to you in England and the success of his undertakings here.

36. We now send you the complete set of the proceedings in the Council of Revenue in the affair of Captain Mc.Kenzie³ in separate sets, which we hope will give full information on that head.

37. The Dutch Chief and Council have applied to us for our concurrence in surveying and establishing a new passage in the river between Culpee and Ingalee lately discovered. We have referred the matter to the proper officers in your marine service and as soon as we receive their report we shall pursue such measures, in conjunction with the Dutch, as may seem best calculated for securing the advantages of such a discovery.

38. On an application from the Fort Major we have ordered Thomas Button, a soldier who has served out his time, to be received a passenger on board of this ship, and his passago money is paid by the Military Paymaster.

39. We return by this opportunity 9 sets of covenants executed by your civil servants, as per list in the packet.

40. The balance in your treasury this day is current rupees 2,99,542-14-0 ; in cash current rupees 29,329-12-9 ; in the *Dewanny* Treasury current rupees 28,28,285-10-12.

41. We have granted the following sets of certificates by this ship.

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>
1 set dated 15th December 1772 to George Towers, 2nd officer of the ship <i>Duke of Grafton</i> , Captain Samuel Bull, Commander.	Himself 2,308-12-9
1 set dated 21st December 1772 to Richard Hutchins, Purser of the ship <i>Prince of Wales</i> , Captain Jonathan Court, Commander.	Himself 1,948-1-0
1 set dated 29th December 1772 to Carter Moore, 4th officer of the ship <i>Triton</i> , Captain William Elphinstone, Commander.	Himself 1,298-11-9
1 set dated 7th January 1773 to Captain Samuel Bull, Commander of the ship <i>Duke of Grafton</i> .	Himself 36,363-10-0
1 set dated 7th January 1773 to Samuel Clerk, Purser of the ship <i>Duke of Grafton</i> , Captain Samuel Bull, Commander.	Himself 1,943-1-0
1 set dated 7th January 1773 to Francis Palmer, second officer of the ship <i>Prince of Wales</i> , Captain Jonathan Court, Commander.	Himself 1,820-0-0
1 set dated 12th December 1772 to Pitcairn Buchanan, Surgeon of the ship <i>Nassau</i> , Captain Arthur Gore, Commander.	Himself 1,731-9-9
1 set dated 9th January 1773 to [Lionel] Darell for the Marine [Society] of London, leaving it to the option of the Court of Directors to pay the amount in England and to settle the rate of exchange.	13,615-13-6
1 set dated 14th January 1773 to Captain Jonathan Court, Commander of the ship <i>Prince of Wales</i> , received of Henry Lodge and Henry Revell his attorneys in further part of his voyage to Bengal account.	Himself 12,000-0-0 Current rupees 73,034-11 9
Fort William, 15th January 1773. [Per <i>Prince of Wales</i>]	We are, Honourable Sirs, Your most faithful humble servants, (Signed) Warren Hastings &ca. Council.

LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1773

*Complaints about conduct of captains of the Company's ships—
attempts to introduce silkworms and mulberry plants from China into Bengal.*

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We dispatched the *Prince of Wales* about 15 days ago and had the honour of addressing you by that opportunity.

2. Duplicates of our letters on that occasion are now sent; this goes by the *Duke of Grafton*, Captain Bull, who is dispatched with a cargo amounting to rupees 10,04,400 as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed in the packet.

3. In obedience to your orders contained in the 16th paragraph of the letter per *Grafton* we required of the sundry captains from Madeira to comply with the directions there given in relation to the wine on board their vessels and we beg leave to refer to the Import Warehouse Keeper's report on the subject. He is clearly of opinion that the [leakage] by the *Triton* was owing to bad storage and we have thought necessary to take particular notice of this, that from the above information you may be enabled to require such satisfaction on these heads from the captains as you shall deem proper and necessary. We have only to add that Captain Elphinstone signed the gauge after the receipt of the letter from the Import Warehouse Keeper; Captain Carr went away without signing his.

4. We have further to acquaint you that on enquiring into the reasons which obliged Mr. Taterson to return from the *Triton* after being sent by our order on board, we find, by the affidavit of the sergeant who accompanied him, that he was refused to be received by the commanding officer; a copy of the affidavit goes a number in the packet.

5. We have just received a report from Mr. Darell who was sent down to dispatch the *Prince of Wales*, by which we find that Captain Court refused to take on board a considerable part of the cargo destined for him no less than 38 bales of cloth and 288 bags of *couries*, as will appear by a signed note at the foot of the bill of lading and also by Mr. Darell's report and letter to your Secretary, all which are sent numbers in this packet.

6. The reasons Captain Court gives are submitted to you but we have to observe that it appears strange that Captain Court should apply for surplus tonnage if there was not room in his ship for the ordinary cargoe allotted for him. At his request we granted him 500 bags saltpetre over his proportion, but it never was suggested by him that he was to receive it in the room of any part of his cargoe nor indeed did we conceive it to be any more than a proper ballast for his ship.

7. It gives us pain thus to prefer repeated complaints against the captains of your vessels; while they remain here under the immediate authority of your government we have it in our power, in some degree, to check their irregularities but no sooner do they get on board of their own ships at a distance, in the mouth of the river, than they too frequently act

without controul and seem to disregard all orders from us.

8. With the instances given above, permit us to mention that Captain Gore carried his contempt of authority so far as grossly to insult aboard his own ship Mr. Robertson, the gentleman deputed to dispatch him ; we forebore taking notice of it in our former letter because we expected Captain Gore's answer for his conduct from Madrass which we had requested the gentleman of that Presidency to obtain. But we now add this case to the rest.

9. On the whole we submit all these to your Honourable Court not doubting but you will take means better to secure your property and the authority of your government here against the caprice and violence of the captains of your ships.

10. Major Du Gloss¹ having applied to us for leave to resign the service and having earnestly solicited the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in consideration of his old and faithful services, representing that as his resignation would follow immediately it could have no effect with regard to the reasons which exclude foreigners from holding such rank in your service and would only serve to obviate any reproach he might be liable to, in his own country, from appearing to have been fixt so long to an inferior station, we took his plea into consideration but did not think ourselves entitled by the letter of your orders to grant him the favour he asked. However we agreed as a small indulgence to change his brevet of Major into a commission by appointing him Major of engineers one day before he resigned. We were the more easily inclined to this that it appears by a paragraph in your letter, per *Lord Hollond*, in 1771 that you understood him to have belonged to that corps.

11. We have lately received some silkworms and mulberry plants from China, the former have been sent to Cossimbuzar to be properly distributed and we hope they will be of great service to the produce and quality of the silk in this country. The latter have been planted in the Governor's garden, and notwithstanding the attention paid to them we fear they are too far gone to be recovered.

12. We have permitted Mr. Wm. Magee, lately Register in the Mayor's Court, to go home in this ship ; he resigned his office last month and Mr. C. Sealy was chosen his successor by the Court in terms of their charter.

13. We have granted a passage to Mrs. Mills, the wife of Mr. Mills, Examiner of the Mayor's Court, in this ship.

14. We have further permitted the following gentlemen, viz. Mr. Baynes, cadet, who has resigned the service ; Richard Rider, cadet, who has resigned the service ; Willwood Johnson, Surgeon, who has resigned also and we have given leave to Captain Nailor to send home a child by the same opportunity.

15. We have drawn in further part of the sum allowed £856 and sundry bills as per list a number in the packet. The balance in your General Treasury was this day 87,759-12, in the *Khalsa* Treasury

24,93,334-7-12 and in the cash rupees 31,154-3.

16. We have granted the following certificates by this ship.

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>
1 set dated 26th January 1773 to Charles Inglis, Surgeon of the ship <i>Duke of Grafton</i> , Captain Samuel Bull, Commander.	Himself 1948-1-0
1 set dated 26th January 1773 to Henry Churchill, 4th officer of the ship <i>Duke of Grafton</i> , Captain Samuel Bull, Commander.	Himself 1298-11-3
1 set dated 26th January 1773 to Stephen Macleane, chief officer of the ship <i>Duke of Grafton</i> , Captain Samuel Bull, Commander.	Himself 3246-12-0
1 set dated 26th January 1773 to Rose Fuller, fifth officer of the ship <i>Duke of Grafton</i> , Captain Samuel Bull, Commander.	Himself 649-5-9
1 set dated 26th January 1773 to William Plow, third officer of the ship <i>Duke of Grafton</i> , Captain Samuel Bull, Commander.	Himself 1948-1-0
	Current rupees 9090-15-0

Fort William,
31st January 1773.
[Per *Duke of Grafton*]

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants,
(Signed) Warren Hastings &ca.
Council.

Postscript

Since writing the above, Lieutenant George Sampson of artillery has applied to us for permission to resign the service and proceed to Europe in this ship in consequence of a wound he has accidentally received in his foot.

The following persons whose time of service being expired are allowed passages in the *Duke of Grafton* on the terms of charterparty. Their passage money has been paid here.

Thos. Hill	Serjeant
Michl. Patty	do.
Richd. Walsh	do.
John Parker	Private
Andrew Knowles	do.
Henry Cox	do.
John Taylor	do.
John White	do.

John Hansburry	do.
Willm. Williams	do.
John Griffith	do.
Willm. Hockley	do.
Willm. Watson	do.
Richd. Sums	do.
Richd. Hobbes	Drummer
John Atkins	do.

Fort William,
1st February 1773.

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants,
(Signed) Warren Hastings etc.
Council.

4

LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 1773

Question of erecting a lighthouse on Sagar Island—arrangements for supply of funds for Bombay investment—steps to improve raw silk investment—Lakshmipur Residency made independent of Chittagong—prohibition of foreign vessels from trading in Indian goods in Dutch settlements—exchange of prisoners with Raja of Arakan arranged—appointment of a Civil and Military Secretary for Board—comment on Maddison's letter published in London press—contract with Prinsep for printed calicoes—coining of gold coins at Patna Mint restricted.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. By the *Duke of Grafton*, Captain Bull, we had the honour to address you under date the 30th January and duplicates by that [*sic*] ship now attend you. We had appointed the *Marquis of Rockingham*, the annual ship, for conveying home the general books etc.. as usual; it has however not been in the power of the sub-accomptant to get them ready by this opportunity; they will be sent you by the *Hector*; in the meantime the other usual dispatches wait on you and we shall, as is customary, relate the chief occurrences of the last season (which either remain unnoted or are fit to be recapitulated) ranged under their established heads, giving first a list of such advices from you as have been received or letters dispatched by us to your Honourable Court during the course of the season as

follows, viz.

Letters received—

Per *Lapwing* dated 28th August, P.S. 29th August 1771.
 Per *Nottingham* 18th December 1771.
 Per *Duke of Albany* 15th January 1772.
 Per *Prince of Wales* 25th March 1772 and in duplicate by the other ships.

Advices sent from hence—

Per *Nottingham* Public Department dated 5th September 1772.
 Per do. Secret Department .. do.
 Per *Lapwing* Public Department .. 11 November 1772.
 Per do. Secret Department .. do.
 Per *Greenwich* Public Department .. 10 December 1772.
 Per do. Secret Department .. do.
 Per *Triton* Public Department .. 6 January 1773.
 Per *Prince of Wales* do. .. 15 January 1773.
 Per do. Secret Department .. do.
 Per *Duke of Grafton* Public Department. . 31 January 1773.

First, of shipping

2. The ships consigned to this Presidency and safely arrived in the course of this season are, viz.

<i>Lapwing</i>	<i>Nassau</i>
<i>Nottingham</i>	<i>Prince of Wales</i>
<i>Greenwich</i>	<i>Duke of Grafton</i>
<i>Triton</i>	<i>Marquis of Rockingham</i> and <i>Hector</i>

3. The loss of the *Duke of Albany*, you received a particular account of in ours of the 5th September.

4. We also acquainted you of our having dismissed Evers, the pilot, from the service upon account of the loss of that ship, although from the man's general reputation and the particular circumstances which attended that affair, there appears to have been more bad fortune than mismanagement in his case.

5. Messrs. Dean and Bowey, Deputy Master Attendants, being called upon conformable to your orders to refund the extra allowance of rupees 150 per month, which had been granted them, they represented their total inability to discharge the amount as altogether it had scarcely been sufficient to defray their necessary expences. However your orders were so positive we again insisted upon it and they have promised to comply as soon as they can raise the money; at all events this matter shall be settled soon according to the tenor of your directions.

6. Mr. David Cummings, a person appointed by you to succeed to the post of Deputy Master Attendant, presented an address to us setting

Consn. 2nd November. forth his past services to the Company and begging a commendation to your Honourable Court for the succession to the office of Master Attendant itself. We can only say in assistance to your determination on this matter that we have undoubted testimony that the facts asserted in his memorial are strictly true.

7. Captain Lewis having applied to us for an allowance for bringing round the *Harland*, one of your schooners from Bombay where she was built, we agreed to pay him the same sum as was allowed in the case of the *Triton* schooner.

8. In pursuance to your directions respecting a lighthouse to be erected on Saugur Island we referred the matter to the Master Attendant and his report in consequence, is inserted in our proceeding of the 2nd November. He is clearly of opinion that it could be of no service to the navigation of this river, that unless it were to be built very high it could not be seen in the channel and even if it were high enough to be observed it could furnish no directions to vessels going up if the buoys were carried away and while they stand it would be totally useless. For these reasons we declined any further steps in the matter.

Consn. 10th September. 9. By a letter from Captain Jackson received by a French ship, which arrived in this river, we are informed that he had got so far on his passage home as 6 degrees East of the Cape of Good Hope all safe and well.

Consn. 21st September. 10. We have on the application of the captains of your several ships given each of them a proportion of some old iron guns which were lying in the stores as ballast for their ships in such quantity as the season for their departure required.

Secondly, of goods from Europe, or from one part of India to another

Consn. 13th April. 11. The late Mr. Edward Roch applied to us for the payment of duties which had been levied at Bombay on some copper which he imported there, notwithstanding he had produced a certificate of their being purchased at the Company's sales here; on a reference to our Custom Master we found it is not customary in this port to levy duties on goods from other Presidency's [*sic*] which are accompanied with proper certificates of their being purchased at your sales, but as this exaction had been made by the Custom Master at Bombay we thought it most proper to refer the executors of Mr. Roch to that Presidency for redress, furnishing them with a copy of our Custom Master's report.

Consn. 17th August. 11th September. 12. The Bombay Presidency requested us to supply them with thirteen lacks of rupees this season for the provision of their investment and afterwards finding themselves disappointed in the sum of 2,30,000 rupees from Fort St. George intended to be sent to China for the use of the investment there, they were obliged to remit that sum themselves and in consequence

wrote to us to augment our remittances to them. We have, in conformity to these requisitions, already remitted bills (including a balance over remitted last year) to the amount of rupees 6,75,051 9-9 and accepted their drafts from Bombay and Surat for rupees 3,29,551-11-5, and we expect next week to receive bills for about two lacks more; the rest we shall endeavour to make up as soon as possible, but we beg leave to acquaint you that we find it impossible to procure good drafts to any considerable amount under 2 per cent loss in the exchange. It is sometimes very difficult to obtain them even at that rate. We wrote to Patna in hopes of better success in that quarter but were informed none could be obtained there and that at Benaras the merchants were still more extravagant in their terms than at Moorshedabad or at this place.

13. In our proceedings referred to in the margin you will find a long letter from Mr. Herbert the gentleman you appointed Chief at Balambangan, dated at Madrass, wherein he recommends our securing as great a quantity of opium as possible for supplying the demand of that settlement, and at the same time we received an indent from the President and Council of Fort St. George ascertaining the quantity to be sent 350 chests which we immediately endeavoured to comply with. The opium is now ready in our warehouse and will be shipped by the *Syren* one of the Company's vessels (now refitting for that voyage) as soon as she is ready for sea.

14. By the loss of the *Duke of Albany* in which you had laden the supplies of stationary intended for the use of this Presidency, we were left unprovided with that article; we were therefore addressed by our sub-accomptant for permission to purchase a sufficiency for the exigencies of the service which we were under the necessity of consenting to, and directed him to procure it on the most reasonable terms in his power. Our duty obliges us to inform you that the two last dispatches of stationary we have received proved very bad in quality.

Thirdly, of investment

15. Notwithstanding our investment this year was retarded by the length of time employed in receiving proposals delivered by the merchants who offered to provide the investment by contract and which were rejected for the reasons we formerly pointed out, yet has the provision of it in general exceeded our expectations and we have the satisfaction to assure you that we shall not only receive sufficient for the completing the lading of all our ships but have about the value of a lack in balance, remaining in our warehouse at the close of the season.

16. With respect to the silk investment we have already acquainted you per *Lapwing* that it was given in charge to the Committee of Circuit to enquire into the state of that valuable branch which has for some time been on the decline owing chiefly, we believe, to the famine in 1770. From

these sentiments, whilst at Cossimbuzar, upon this subject we are to conclude that to restore it to its former flourishing state is to be effected only by time and proper encouragement. Regulations of the most encouraging kind have therefore been issued to induce the *riots* to the culture of waste lands with mulberry plantations.

17. The new method of winding has also required our attention and we have thought it proper to place those departments under the Residents who collect the revenues of those and the adjoining districts, by which means the business will be much facilitated and an effectual stop put to the inconveniencies that must arise from the clashing of the commercial and revenue branches. This measure, we doubt not, will be the means of improving the culture of the silk and removing every impediment that may proceed from the influence the *pycars* have hitherto exercised over the *chassers*, and the superintendants will be able to give their whole attention to the business of their filatures.

18. In the intermediate time between the dispatch of the ships and the receipt of the goods at the Presidency Mr. Guinand visited the subordinates of Dacca and Cossimbuzar, and from the many beneficial improvements he has pointed out in his remarks and observations on those investments which have been represented by you to have been so very defective of late years, we have reason to hope that some considerable amendment will be effected this season and which we have particularly recommended to the attention of the Chief and Council of Cossimbuzar.

19. Many improvements have also been made in the Midnapore investment, and we are in expectation also of an increase in the manufactures of that province as well as from the *aurungs* immediately dependant on Calcutta.

20. We informed you last season of our having written to Madrass for information as to the manner in which their manufacturers prepared their red dye, they have replied to us that they have not been able as yet to obtain any satisfactory information on the subject, but that they will continue their enquiries, and as they receive any intelligence deserving communication they will not fail to advise us.

21. We have thought proper, on account of the great distance, to render the Presidency of Luckypore independant of Chittagong ; we were further induced to this from the inconvenience which arose to the collections of Tippera from their being managed by the chief of that distant factory ; we also annexed the collections of Tippera to the Residency of Luckypore ; for what may further relate to the collections we beg leave to refer you to the Revenue Department.

Fourthly, trade of India, country government and European powers

22. We received from the Fort St. George Presidency the translation of a letter addressed to them from the Dutch Governour General and Council at Batavia wherein they notify a prohibition which they

Consn.
23rd April
afternoon.

have thought proper lately to publish for all foreign vessels of any sort or nation whatever, from selling the commodities of India in their settlements in Java and the Straits of Sunda, and refusing them the right of repairing at Batavia or disposing of naval stores there; as this letter was not directly addressed to us and as we look upon it as a matter of that moment to be the immediate object of your deliberations on the advice which you would receive from Madrass we thought it most fit to wait your orders before we took any notice of it to the Government of Batavia.

23. The Madrass Presidency also transmitted to us copy of an accusation received from the King of Pegu against Captain Wapple and desired us to make an enquiry into the particulars if he should touch at this port; they, however, in their subsequent advices, informed us that the gentlemen at Bombay had begun the examination of him and enclosed a transcript of his defence received from that place, which is entered in our proceedings referred to in the margin. Captain Wapple has not been in this settlement since.

Consn.
30th July.

24. Captain Ford of the *Syren* whom we sent with stores to Balambangan returned from that place safe after delivering his cargo according to orders.

25. Soon after he sailed from Madrass he informed us by letter that he had saluted the fort at Malacca with 9 guns and had only five returned him without any excuse or apology on the part of the Dutch; for this apparent slight, we consequently gave orders to the Master Attendant to direct all the captains of our ships in arriving at a foreign port to send ashore to know what number of guns will be returned them before they give any salute.

Consn.
27th April.

26. Your Presidency of Fort St. George will doubtless have held you regularly apprized of the proceedings at Balambangan; we shall therefore only mention that, by the advices communicated to us, there had taken place at Zoloa a revolution which put the son of the late Sultan in the room of his father in the government, that the young man Israel, the present Sultan, seems rather to shew a jealousy of so near an English establishment as that of Balambangan and has insisted that a duty of 5 p. cent *ad valorem*, on all commodities should be paid by private traders in his dominions but we learn that the Sultans of Timate, Bultan and Mindanao have testified a strong desire to cultivate a friendship with our nation.

27. The President and Council at Houghly begged of us to deliver up a person by name Hendrick Heyton, a subject of their nation, said to have taken refuge at Calcutta, he having wilfully, as they represented, lost one of their sloops on one of the sands in this river in piloting her up; we wrote them in answer that no such person had claimed our protection nor did we know of his being in our settlement.

28. Last summer the Rajah of Aracan sent five prisoners of this nation to Chittagong and at the same time desired the release of seven of

his subjects, who were in confinement at that factory; this was readily assented to and acquainted the Rajah, who appeared desirous to live upon a footing of friendship with us, that the readiest means to promote it and to testify the sincerity of his wishes would be to send in every person belonging to us whom he might have in custody in his country.

Consn.
7th August.

Fifthly, of fortifications and buildings

29. Upon an estimate transmitted to us from the Chief and Council of Patna of the charge of building a cloth warehouse there, amounting to *sonout* rupees 15,542-5-3 we agreed to it with positive orders not to exceed the sum specified.

30. They also applied for leave to plaister the cantonments there to which we declined giving an answer till we had a report from the Chief Engineer, then on a circuit for visiting the different posts; afterwards on his recommendation we consented to it.

31. By order of the General, Captain Marsack made an accurate survey of Chunargur, which has been sent home for the inspection of your Honourable Court. He also made a report of what buildings and repairs were wanting there, but as your orders restrict us from any undertaking of that sort we proceeded no further in that matter.

32. Mr. Joseph Price having tendered proposals for supplying us for the term of five years with teak timbers at certain fixt rates we referred them to the examination of the Military Committee, and it appearing to them that many advantages would result to the Company from having a timber yard constantly well supplied without the risk of a heavy dead stock lying upon our hands, they recommended these proposals to our acceptance, but other offers being afterwards made on terms more advantageous than Mr.

Consn.
6th February.

Price's we thought it a justice due to him as the original proposer to give him the refusal of the contract on the lowest terms offered, and he having accepted them we concluded the contract and agreeable to the tenor of the proposals granted him a spot of ground for depositing the timbers. For a more particular

Consn.
13th April.

account of this transaction we beg leave to refer you to the Consultation quoted in the margin and the proceedings of the Military Committee.

Consn.
30th July.

33. Mr. Delisle, Deputy Paymaster to the first brigade, having suffered the loss of *sonout* rupees 5212-10-8 by the burning of a quantity of stores which he laid in for the service of the Company, his case was recommended to our consideration by the General, but we did not think ourselves authorised to make him any allowance for the loss. However as he was at that time Deputy Paymaster to the first brigade and the accident happening in the interval of the resignation of the Paymaster and the appointment

Consn.
23th April.

of another to that charge he was necessitated to do the duty and purchase such stores as might be wanted for the use of the brigade, and as his discontinuance in that appointment has deprived him of every opportunity to compensate his loss he cannot retrieve himself but from your indulgence in allowing him to be repaid; we therefore recommend his case to you as deserving of your compassion.

34. In the month of April last we found the old Council House in so ruinous a condition that it was dangerous to continue the offices there; we were therefore under the necessity immediately of renting a large house belonging to Messrs. Keir and Co., at the rate of rupees 1000 pr. month, for the meetings of Council and the different offices immediately depending on it.

Consn.
23th April.

35. The Civil Architect was then directed to survey the old house, and he attended the Governor there. He reports the walls to be in so bad a state that they cannot be put into a tolerable condition for less than 62,000 rupees and the materials of which they are made to be so bad that even then they could only last a few years. He also at the same time delivered us an estimate for building a compleat new one, more convenient in every respect, capable of containing a greater number of offices amounting to 1,55,000, but as your orders are positive for us not to engage in any new buildings we could not think of adopting his plan.

36. We have continued to occupy Mr. Keir's house ever since for the purposes mentioned and we have issued orders to the committees and offices of the several departments, immediately attached to your administration here, to send in exact accounts of the accommodations which they require.

37. As soon as these returns are received we shall endeavour to have a compleat plan and estimate drawn out to be transmitted to you for consideration, to be executed afterwards if you shall think proper either in the new fort or elsewhere.

Sixthly and seventhly, covenanted servants and accounts

38. We received an address from Captain Thomas Gough complaining of an injury in his rank by a mistake in the date of his commission and referred it to the General to enquire into the validity of his claim; the General being of opinion that he was justly entitled to the rank he desires, which was next above Captain Peter Grant, we confirmed it to him.

Consn.
25th May.

Consn.
8th July.

Consn.
7th August.

39. Mr. William Benton, formerly an officer on this establishment, presented a memorial requesting a restoration to the service, which he had forfeited at the general resignation^a; your having been pleased to grant us full license for restoring such officers as were involved in that affair whose characters merited

Consn.
1st June.

such an indulgence, and this gentleman standing fair in the general opinion, we resolved to permit him to re-enter the service as youngest captain.

40. Captain Benton did not live long to enjoy the benefit of our indulgence.

41. In our address of the 15th ultimo we noticed to your honours a memorial delivered in by Lieutenant Colonel Morgan, agreeably to which that gentleman has relinquished your service and now proceeds to England in the ship *Marquis of Rockingham*; the inducement the Colonel has to appeal to you in the hope of meriting a degree of consideration such as he thinks due to his services inclines us once more to attempt to draw your attention in his behalf. We find ourselves under a difficulty that would much embarrass us did we not imagine the cause which influenced you to issue the orders relative to Colonel Morgan's rank, admits of being represented in a light more favorable to the Colonel than that in which you have hitherto viewed it.

42. No reasons being assigned in any of your letters for fixing Colonel Morgan's rank it has not been possible for him to erase the unfavourable impression given you by a vindication of his conduct here.

43. We therefore recommend him to you that you may be pleased to hear and to judge his pretensions; for this purpose his memorial is made a number in our packet, and we wish the Colonel may be as able to give you a favourable opinion of his conduct on the particular occasion which has given you offence (an occasion unknown to us) as his services have proved satisfactory to your administration here; the resignation of Colonel Morgan has left on your military establishment in Bengal only three officers of the whole number that composed it in the year 1758.

44. In June last Colonel Wilding being ordered to take the command of the garrison of Chunar Gur, a trust which demanded an officer of rank and experience in the service, he represented to us the hardship he must labour under if obliged to support the character of a field officer on separate command out of the provinces with only captain's pay and *batta*, to which your orders had restricted him. It appears to us that his plea had justice in it and as your orders did not comprehend the case of supernumerary field officers being employed in that rank and on separate commands out of the provinces, we thought you would not object to it and therefore resolved to grant him lieutenant colonel's pay and *batta*.

45. Lieutenant Colonel Goddard having also lately urged the same plea, under similar circumstances, we have granted him the like indulgence, but these extra allowances are to cease immediately on their return within the provinces until the establishment is reduced within the number prescribed by you; and we trust the motives which have guided us herein will appear justifiable to your Honourable Court.

46. At the recommendation of our President in favour of Lieutenant Romaine, in consideration of his age and length of services, we have granted him a brevet commission as captain.

47. This will by no means affect any of the officers on this establish-

ment he being a foreigner and cannot rise to any superior rank in your service.

48. Sometime ago the gentlemen cadets on this establishment were formed into a separate corps, under the name of the Select Picquet, but on observation of some irregularities which subsisted in it we thought it necessary to deliberate upon the means of establishing better order in future. To this end the General offered his thoughts in a minute, to which after due consideration we assented ; we refer you to the date in the margin [?] for the Consultation which contains them.

49. We cannot avoid on this occasion taking notice of a fact which is stated in the General's minute worthy of your particular observation. It would appear that Captain Nairne of the *Lord Holland* Consn. had procured a passage to India for one Nunn who had 17th December. been convicted of some crime which required His Majesty's pardon to free him from publick punishment, and he obtained for him the appointment of a cadet here.

50. What the crime was or what the nature of his conviction we cannot tell, but the copy of the letter which goes a number in this packet will give you all the insight into the matter which we have been able to obtain; this never was known till Nunn's death.

51. Permit us to relate with respect to Captain Nairne that all such attempts to introduce into your army on a level with gentlemen and men of worth, persons guilty of crimes and stigmatized with punishment, tend to the destruction of every noble and generous sentiment in it, particularly strike at the root of that military pride and point of honor which perhaps is the best security for the actions of young and unexperienced men who daily enter into your service ; such a conduct therefore in Captain Nairne seems highly reprehensible and we conceived it to be our duty to advise you particularly about it.

52. In consequence of Colonel Campbell's resignation we had the honour to advise you of our having appointed Major Lillyman to succeed him as Chief Engineer, and Captain John Fortnom to succeed Major Lillyman as Major and Director of the Works. Colonel Campbell in his address to the Board had spoken so highly of the abilities of the former gentleman and the thorough acquaintance he has with Colonel Campbell's plans and intended operations that we trust it will be needless to say more (than expressing our confidence in his abilities) to induce you to confirm the appointment to him.

53. Mr. Ellis your senior surgeon upon this establishment, having resigned the service, we appointed Mr. Daniel Campbell the next in the list to succeed and we have formed a plan for uniting the two departments of civil and military surgeons which will put them on a more equitable footing, and in future prevent the jealousies that have arisen upon the superior advantages in the civil corps; a particular account of this plan will appear upon our Consultations.

54. We could not refuse on the application of Mr. John Stormonth,

Surgeon, once more to recommend him to your favour. It is manifest that his loss of rank was altogether owing to his neglecting, on his first arrival in England, to notify to you the cause which obliged him to quit the service and to reserve his claim to return when his health should be re-established. He is however sensible that he has no cause to complain of your justice since he is a sufferer merely through his own fault and only offers himself a candidate for your favor and indulgence; all he solicits is to allow his former service of 22 months in India to be added to his present rank giving up all pretensions to his original standing which would place him several years higher. We will venture to add in his behalf that he is esteemed a deserving man and able in his profession.

55. The multiplicity and weight of affairs with which the Presidency of your Council here is charged requiring the assistance of a civil and military Secretary, Mr. Hastings, on his succession to the chair, was pleased to appoint Mr. Stewart in the first capacity and Lieutenant Colonel Ironside, in the second, and proposed the usual allowance of rupees 300 pr. month for his civil Secretary, but as Colonel Ironside whose services the President thought necessary in the military line enjoyed the rank of Field Officer in the army, he thought the allowance of captain's pay and *batta* inadequate on this occasion and therefore proposed for him lieutenant colonel's pay and *batta* with a special reference to your pleasure on the subject of both appointments; and as this regards a fixed establishment we beg leave to have your particular orders regarding it.

56. On Mr. Stewart's succession to the place of Secretary to the Board the President appointed Mr. J. Belli to succeed him as Private Secretary.

57. We acquainted you of our having formed ourselves into a Board of Inspection for an enquiry into and regulation of our expences, and we have now the satisfaction to acquaint you that we have nearly compleated our investigation into the several offices at Presidency, which as soon as effected shall in like manner proceed to establish any that may appear necessary for the regulation of the subordinates. For our progress in this business and the charges which appear in consequence to have been saved to the Company we beg leave to refer you to the proceedings which have been kept separate and go a number in the packet.

58. In our proceedings in this Board we took under our consideration the establishment of the Committee of Accounts and after weighing the subject thoroughly we were of opinion the business of that department might be managed more effectually by submitting the accounts to the different members of the Board; we therefore resolved to abolish it, and that the accounts of the different offices and subordinate factories should be audited by the several members thereof.

59. The additional weight of business which has fallen into the hands of your administration at the Presidency since the removal of the *khalsa* or seat of the collections to Calcutta, and the absence of three of the members upon the Committee of Circuit, have necessarily impeded the

progress of the regulations we have been anxious to establish, for the retrenchment of our expences in every department; we are however sensible it is of equal utility with the care of the revenue and you may be assured will be vigilantly attended to with the other important concerns of your Government under this Presidency.

60. We have issued general orders, as we have already acquainted you, that no buildings are to be carried on anywhere without first obtaining the sanction of our approbation, and we are taking measures to limit them to the sum you have prescribed of £100,000 per annum although we fear the fortifications by these means will not be compleated so soon as we could wish; you may however be assured that to them our attention will be principally confined in the management of this branch of your expences.

61. In obedience to your commands, in the 98 and 99 paragraphs of your letter of the 25th March 1772, our Secretary called upon Mr. Keir-
 Consn.
 25th February. nander for an account how he had disposed of Mrs. Tate's bills, and in reply he informs us that the first bill of the set for £500 was sent by the *Duke of Grafton*, Captain Samson, the second by the *Anson*, Captain Lennox, and the 3rd after being registered in the Mayor's Court was sent by the *Lapwing*, Captain Gardiner; that in January 1771 he sent home 3 bills each for 135-1-6 amounting in all to 405-4-6, the first set by the *Verelst* which was lost, the second set by the *Worcester* which, he is advised, arrived safe in the hands of his attorney, Mr. Balthazar Burmen in Lincoln's Inn. Mr. Keirnandar further says that the persons to whom Captain Tate ordered him to direct these have been long dead, which was the reason of his sending the letters and bills under cover to Mr. Balthazar Burmen, but that he has since received a proper address to Mrs. Tate and fully informed her on the subject.

62. We sent in a copy of your orders to the Town Major relating to the army list and by this opportunity we transmit them as compleat as could be obtained, but Captain Kyd the present Town Major represents that no list of casualties was kept before he came into the office which makes it impossible for him to furnish you with that article from the year 1764, and he further says that since his appointment it has been regularly included with the promotions in the annual list.

63. Your commands for an enquiry into the transactions of the Committee of Trade are so peremptory that we do not think ourselves at liberty to dispense with them and shall certainly endeavour to investigate all those particulars relating to them which you so fully detail. But we are obliged to beg your attention to the extent and variety of the objects you have lately assigned as subjects of minute inquiry for us, and that you will be pleased to make such allowances for delay in the execution as the necessity of the cases require. These enquiries cannot be carried on all at one time; they must be undertaken successively, and we endeavour to arrange them according to their importance or the urgency of the circumstances

which attend them. We are at present engaged in that of Mahomed Reza Cawn; that which we now refer to will be brought on in its course. In the meantime we have issued orders to the Committee to prepare a copy of their books; they inform us they are in about five thick volumes in folio and will be got ready as soon as possible. The Society A have paid up all their balances some time ago, and that of B^s have lately made another payment of one lack so that the balance against them now stands at Rs. 666940-15-9 ; and they flatter us with a further payment soon.

64. Complaints have been preferred by some *brahmins* residing in the 24 Purgunnahs of extortions made by Mr. Young's servants while he was employed in the measurement of the charity lands⁴; a court of enquiry was ordered to sit on this affair and their proceedings now attend you a number in the packet; you will perceive that exactions were made by some persons concerned in this business, but that Mr. Young stands fully vindicated from the charge of having any way connived at these unwarrantable practices. We directed the Collector to recover from the guilty persons the amount of their extortions, and such punishments were inflicted upon them as is prescribed by the laws of the country to deter others from the like practices.

65. Captain J. Fullerton whom we appointed Barrack Master General having thought fit to decline the post, we abolished it altogether and nominated Captain Charles Maverly to the particular appointment of Barrack Master at Dinapore and Mr. J. Home at Barampore; Captain Maverly is since dead.

66. In conformity to your orders relating to the establishment of one currency throughout the country, and in consequence of a representation made from the Military Paymaster of the loss to the Company from paying the army in *sonat* rupees, we determined from that time to pay them in *siccas* which practice has been pursued ever since and the accounts kept accordingly ; we beg leave to refer you to the proceedings noted in the margin [?] on this subject.

67. The Military Paymaster also in consequence of your orders communicated to him for transmitting the detailed accounts of each paymaster's transactions has informed us that his journal contains these details exactly as he receives them from the paymasters. We now transmit you his books up to April 1771; by the next ship you will receive those for 1772.

68. In our advices of last season we informed you that Colonel Campbell as Chief Engineer on the abolition of the Committee of Works (of which he was a member) requested to be allowed a seat at the Military Committee; we have since however found it expedient for the service to re-establish that Committee, and that we might profit from the Chief Engineer's knowledge of the works ; we have again received that officer as a member of the Committee.

69. Mr. John Osborne, of whom we wrote to you fully last year, has since presented a memorial to us on his case, but as we had come to

a final resolution upon it we could not again, with propriety, give it a hearing; we therefore directed our Secretary to return it to him.

70. It had long been a custom for the Military Paymaster General to discharge the drafts made on him by the paymasters of the brigades by Company's interest bonds when asked for in preference to cash, but as we found that our resources were sufficient to enable us to avoid this manner of encreasing the bonded debt, we determined to put an end to this practice and directed him for the future to discharge these bills only in cash.

71. The Military Paymaster General informed us of a balance of Rs. 23, 588-12-9 due from the estate of the late Mr. John Hutchinson, Paymaster to the 2nd Brigade. We demanded this sum from his executors, who were unwilling to pay it without something to indemnify them in case of any future call, but to obviate this objection we entered into a bond of indemnification, on receipt of which they paid the amount.

Eighthly, of Charter

72. We were duly attentive to the paragraph of your postscript per *Lapwing* enjoining an enquiry into the subject of Mr. Maddison's extraordinary letter published in the London newspapers and desiring our sentiments upon it.

73. We have first to inform you that the letter in question was exhibited in a suit in the Mayor's Court by Mr. R. Brown, administrator to the estate of Mr. Maddison, and we believe it to be genuine, but as the writer of the letter, the person (Mr. Moodie) to whom it was addressed and Mr. Brown who exhibited it are all dead, it is impossible for us to come to any knowledge of the occasion of it and intention with which it was written. It seems to be an idle speculation of Mr. Maddison's on his appointment to the Durbar which never appears to have been realized, since it is notorious that he died insolvent. The proceedings of the Mayor's Court are regularly sent home under their own seal and therefore rendered it unnecessary and irregular in us, without a positive order from you, to load your packets with duplicate copies from ourselves.

74. The displeasure which you have expressed at our having omitted to furnish you with intelligence of these exhibits obliges us to plead in justification of the members of your administration to whom this censure immediately relates as well as for our own in cases of a similar nature, that we have no regular means or opportunity of knowing what passes in the Mayor's Court, no part of their transactions coming officially before our notice but in appeals from their decrees; neither will it be possible for us to obtain such materials but by appointing an officer whose sole charge shall be to attend to the proceedings of the Court and to compile and report to us such as may any way affect the interests of your Government or the reputation of your servants. We believe we can venture with safety to affirm that the letter in question alarming and mysterious as the contents

of it are, was totally unknown to almost every member of your present administration until the copies of it appeared in your advices and in the publick papers sent out to individuals of this settlement.

75. We entreat once more that you will not impute any disappointments in the expectations which you may have formed from our reply on this subject and some others mentioned in this letter to a neglect of your commands. We shall ever conceive every enquiry which you may be pleased to enjoin us of importance. But in spite of the most zealous wishes to conform in every instance to your expectations we must inevitably leave some unfulfilled. We beg leave to call to your attention the multitude, novelty and intricacy of the various offices of this Government which is not, as formerly, confined to the little settlement of Calcutta and the factories of trade but takes in all the interests and concerns of a great nation with every department in it new and many yet undefined; our utmost care which hath hitherto been unwearied will not enable us to discharge with exactness the duties of each day, and every object which draws back our attention to past transactions diverts us from the care of the present and throws our affairs into irrecoverable arrears. The perusal of our proceedings in the different departments, if we can suppose it possible that you can find leisure to read the whole of such voluminous records, will in every page afford ample proof of our embarrassments and be our best vindication. All we can assure you upon this is that we shall never lose sight of any point which you shall recommend to us nor allow any other business to supersede it but such as affect your more immediate interests.

76. In the course of application to your servants and licensed persons in this settlement to sign the covenants you sent out, we summoned Mr. Whitehead, who came out with free mariners' covenants, repeatedly to execute his which he has as often declined. He said he is here by the Company's license and conforms to the conditions of it, that therefore he has no desire nor is there any obligation upon him to accept of any other terms. We acknowledge ourselves at a loss how to act in this case. Your orders are to send all persons refusing to sign the covenants home to England but upon reference to the powers with which you furnished us, we find that they only preclude in cases of unlicensed persons or persons offending against any of the acts of Parliament, therein specified, and these, we believe, could hardly be construed to extend to the seizing of a person who is here by license and who as far as we have been able to learn behaves himself peaceably and regularly in the settlement. In this dilemma you will excuse our suspending further proceedings on the matter till your particular instructions can be obtained, and we are confident you will approve of a caution founded on such grounds especially as the person Mr. Whitehead whom this regards neither in situation (being only a school master) is conspicuous enough to attract any notice of his non-compliance nor in character and behaviour is calculated to become dangerous in his present situation. Indeed it would expose this Government to contempt were it to proceed to further lengths in a case in which we dare not enforce

your orders, nor exercise an authority not justifiable by law.

77. The very negligent and loose manner in which publick sales have hitherto been conducted in this city has induced us to listen to a petition from Mr. Robt. Dobinson for leave to undertake the business of a sworn broker and auctioneer under our sanction and protection; seeing the great advantages that must arise to the settlement in general from such an officer we have, as an encouragement, appointed him auctioneer to the Company and granted him an exclusive privilege of making sales at the Court House. We had further in speculation to nominate him sole auctioneer for all judicial sales of the effects of minors, idiots, bankrupts etc. but on a reference to the charter of justice we find ourselves unauthorised to appoint him to such an office and thus the power rests only with you or a special delegation of that power to us; we beg leave to recommend this measure to you and for a further elucidation of our opinion on this subject to refer you to our Consultation of the 21st August.

78. We observe your orders relating to the protection afforded at subordinates to servants who are in debt at Calcutta and solicit appointments there merely to get out of the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court. We shall be careful in preventing such abuses in future; we wish also to prevent the like in the army. You will see on our proceedings that lately on an application from the Mayor's Court and an enquiry into the circumstances of the case we ordered an officer down from Moradbaug who had a decree of that Court against him. He obeyed and by this his creditor had the opportunity given him of taking every step to which he was legally entitled for the recovery of his debt.

79. In the suit against Mr. Forbes in the Mayor's Court he obtained in the month of September last a decree against the Company with costs. But on a reference to the Company's attorney he was of opinion that they had established the first part of their claim and advised an appeal. It was accordingly appealed and will come to a hearing in course before your Council here in their judicial capacity.

80. William Harris, a seafaring man, who was sent to this Presidency from Madrass charged with piracy and murder on board a vessel, belonging to this port, was regularly tried and convicted in the Court of Admiralty here and was hanged in the month of April last in pursuance of their sentence. The proceedings of the Court of Admiralty go home in this packet.

81. In the course of this last season the following alterations have taken place in the Mayor's Court.

Mr. John Evelyn appointed Mayor

Mr. Geo. Bright Sheriff

Mr. Jno. Davies appointed an Alderman in
the room of Mr. Joseph Cator

Mr. Samuel Montagut Mr. Willm. Bolts

Mr. Wm. Swainstone	..	..	..	Mr. Geo. Bogle who resigned.
Mr. Jno. Brazier	..	..	..	Mr. Wm. Pawson who resigned.

Supplement

82. On the death of Major Ragul we did not consider it as having occasioned a vacancy in the artillery, he having been regarded as a supernumerary in that corps, but as by the resignation of Major Due Gloss, Major Green became charged with the stores and also by your particular appointment is directed to be present at all trials of ordnance, both which duties preclude him from being absent from the Presidency, we deemed it necessary and consistent with the spirit of your orders to appoint another field officer to do duty with the corps. We therefore promoted Captain Tolley, the next officer in succession, to the rank of Major of artillery to supply the place of Major Ragul deceased.

83. The General having recommended the restoration of Captain Harding to the service his late dismissal having apparently had the desired effect of bringing him into a sense of his former imprudent and disorderly behaviour we consented to his restoration and he was accordingly appointed Captain with his former rank.

84. We had also before, on the same recommendation, re admitted Mr. Thomas Baillie who had been concerned in the resignation.

85. Although we had little doubt of having tonnage sufficient for all the ships of this season yet as the goods were not all received from the different subordinates and *aurungs* we thought it adviseable to treat for a parcel of Dacca cloths to the amount of about 2 lacks rupees, which were offered us through the channel of the Committee of Commerce; we therefore ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper and Mr. Guinand to inspect and appraise them, and referred to the Committee to conclude the bargain if the price and quality were found suitable. We hope by these means to be able in some degree to answer your expectations with regard to surplus tonnage.

86. In the course of this season we received a proposal from Mr. Prinsep for printing calicoes in a method superior to what was commonly practised here. We referred it in course to the Committee of Commerce and from their report and that of Mr. Guinand, both which were extremely favourable to the proposal, we thought it adviseable to conclude a contract with Mr. Prinsep for the particulars of which we beg leave to refer you to the proceedings of the Committee. We flatter ourselves that from this contract we shall be able to furnish you with printed goods both in design and execution superior to anything hitherto sent from this country.

87. Mr. Keighly to whom was signified your orders respecting him has written a letter to your Board entered on our proceedings of the 8th January. It contains a recent representation on his case
 Consn.
 8th January 1773. and we beg leave to refer it to your consideration.

88. On a report of our Master Attendant of the state and condition of the marine under his inspection we took it into consideration and have settled a new establishment on the best footing of economy and utility which occurred to us.

89. David Vanderheyden, whom you mention to have come out in the marine under the name of Hunter, returned to Europe last year in the *Speke*.

90. On a report made to us by the Mint and Assay Master of the business of the gold currency coined at Patna which although pretty exact in weight turned out in assay only 22 carrats 2 grains fine instead of 23 carrats $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains which was the fixed standard, we resolved, as no payments on account of the revenues were made in the gold specie, to forbid their coining any more excepting a few at the commencement of each year for the usual *nuzzars* to the King etc.. at the same time directed them to enquire after the offenders and if possible to discover them that they might be severely punished.

91. We have now the pleasure to send you complete indexes both for our annual and broken set of Secret and Public Department proceedings and we beg leave to assure you that your orders in this respect shall, in future, be punctually obeyed.

92. All the writers you appointed last year on this establishment are arrived and stationed in the different offices excepting: Messrs. John Bazet, John Sykes, Edwd. Ephraim Pote, and George Livius.

93. The following of your civil servants have deceased since our general advices of last season: Messrs. Michael Lord and Chas. Dempster, writers.

94. Mr. Cartier, our late President, left this place and took his passage on the *Prince of Wales*.

95. The other gentlemen who have resigned your civil service this year and gone home in the ships of this season, hitherto dispatched, are as follows: James Harris and William Marriot.

96. We have now the pleasure to dispatch to you duplicates of many of the books and papers that were lost in the *Verelat* as noted in the list of packet. But we must here beg leave to inform you that as it has never been customary to take duplicates of indemnification bonds given for servants carried home we have it not in our power to comply with your commands in transmitting duplicates of those lost in the above ship.

97. In the 27th paragraph in our letter to you under date 31st March last per *Olive*, we informed you of a balance appearing on the face of our books to be due to Messrs. Brown and Mapletoft which was claimed by the Grand Lodge of Free Masons. The bonds granted to these gentlemen have been since found but for the reasons then given we have determined to wait your directions for the payment of them.

98. The term of the contract for supplying gun carriages etc., lately subsisting between us and Mr. James Anderson being expired we received proposals for renewing it and concluded a fresh one with Mr. Tyso Saul

Hancock on lower terms than it was held by the former contractor.

99. Mr. Robt. Haffy, who stood high on the list of lieutenants in this establishment, having been violently struck with the palsy, which totally disabled him from further duty, was ordered immediately home by his physicians as the only chance of an alteration of this unhappy situation, but the hopes of succeeding to captain's rank during the course of the season, which would entitle him at home to a higher annuity, inclined him to stay at the risk of his life. These circumstances our President recommended bestowing a captain's commission on him immediately to enable him to go home in the situation he wished and we considered this as a small indulgence, which on motives of compassion we were persuaded you would approve of, and granted it to him accordingly.

100. Mr. Charles Imhoff^s in obedience to your orders transmitted from the Madrass Presidency repairs to Europe in this ship.

101. Besides the above we have granted permission to the following persons to return to Europe in this ship : Lieutenant Geo. Francis Grand, Mr. John Westenra, Mr. Cockerell, Mrs. Sanderson and Miss Peggy Morony daughter to a gentleman here. Indemnification bonds have been entered into for the servants taken home and make numbers in the packet.

102. The following persons also whose time of service is expired or by some means are rendered unfit for duty are allowed passages in the *Rockingham* on terms of charterparty.

Arthur Cooper	}	Sergeants
Willm. Jones		
John Sullivan	}	Private invalids
John Talcham		
James Hardy		Lunatic
John Ashby		
Thos Eakins and		
Thos. Chinery		

103. In our last by the *Grafton* we omitted to mention (excepting by a note of reference at the bottom of the list of charterparty passengers) that Thos. Hill, sergeant, had obtained the proper certificates from hence to entitle him to the benefit of enjoying the pension.

104. The cargo sent home to you on this ship amounts to (as per invoice) current rupees 10,32,600.

105. The balance this day in your General Treasury is current rupees 5.35,556-5-6, in the *Khalsa* Treasury current rupees 25,14,708-3-15 and in the cash 54,896-2-9.

106. We have granted the following sets of certificates by this ship.

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>
1 set dated 1st February 1773 to Robt. Fairfull, second officer of the <i>Marquis of Rockingham</i> , Captain Alexr. Hamilton, Commander.	Himself 2,597-6-

1 set dated 12th February 1773 to John Moffat, chief officer of the ship <i>Hector</i> , Captain Stephen Williams, Commander.	Himself	3,241-
1 set dated 13th February 1773 to Henry Adderton, second officer of the ship <i>Hector</i> , Captain Stephen Williams, Commander.	Himself	2,592-
1 set dated 13th February 1773 to Robt. Patch, surgeon of the ship <i>Hector</i> , Captain Stephen Williams, Commander.	Himself	1,392-
1 set dated 19th February 1773 to Captain Alexr. Hamilton, Commander of the ship <i>Marquis of Rockingham</i> .	Himself	36,363-10-
1 set dated 19th February 1773 to John Gud, chief officer of the ship <i>Marquis of Rockingham</i> , Captain Alexr. Hamilton, Commander.	Himself	3,246-2-
1 set dated 19th February 1773 to John Mc. Clary, purser of the ship <i>Marquis of Rockingham</i> , Captain Alexr. Hamilton, Commander.	Himself	1,948-1-
1 set dated 19th February 1773 to Dickie Wier, 4th officer of the ship <i>Marquis of Rockingham</i> , Captain Alexr. Hamilton, Commander.	Himself	1,298-11-3
1 set dated 19th February 1773 to Willm. Agars, fifth officer of the ship <i>Marquis of Rockingham</i> , Captain Alexr. Hamilton, Commander.	Himself	649-5-9
1 set dated 20th February 1773 to John Craufurd, surgeon of the ship <i>Marquis of Rockingham</i> , Alexr. Hamilton, Commander.	Himself	1,948-1-
1 set dated 20th February 1773 to Cuthbert Fenwicke, 3rd officer of the ship <i>Marquis of Rockingham</i> , Captain Alexr. Hamilton, Commander.	Himself	1,948-1-
		<hr/>
Current rupees		57,223-6

Fort William,
1st March 1773.
[Per *Marquis of Rockingham*]

LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1773

Comment on claimants of Restitution Fund—refund of unauthorized payments from commission on revenues—Forbes case—trial of Lieut. Dunber for murder of Din Muhammad—new method of winding raw silk—Barwell's proposal to reduce interest on bond debts.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United East India Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. This is addressed to you by the *Hector*, Captain Williams, the last ship of the season.

2. She carries home a cargo to the amount of current rupees 13,00,100 as per invoice and bills of lading numbers in this packet.

3. We also transmit herewith duplicates of our last, the originals of which went by the *Rockingham*, Captain Hamilton. The *Rockingham*, being the annual ship, carried home as usual a complete set of our Consultations for the year with other papers as will appear by the list of packet. It however not being in the power of the Sub Accountant to get the general books of the Presidency ballanced to be ready to go by that opportunity, they are now prepared and go in this packet.

4. Our advices by that ship ranged under separate heads as is customary, and the former letters of last year we trust will have conveyed ample information of our transactions for that period. We have at present only to mention what has occurred since or to touch on any points that may have been deferred till now.

5. The claimants on the restitution fund having again applied to us to be informed when they may expect to receive the sums due to them on that account, we have declined giving them any precise assurances on the subject, as we mean to conform strictly to the letter of your orders, which applies only the savings from the reduction of the Nabob's stipend¹ to that and other specific purposes, and settle the exact order of preference in which this debt shall be discharged after replacing the sums which have been already disbursed from your treasury on these accounts.

6. In the meantime we have ordered from our accountants a full and exact state of this and the other claims to the discharge of which the 16 lacks from the Nabob is appropriated, with an account of the payments which may have been made towards them from the revenue of the *Dewanny* since its acquisition, that we may be enabled to settle the proper application of the above fund according to the orders you have been pleased to give.

7. We have also settled with the agents of the Navy Donation by account current in which the amount of the draughts to Captain Afflick is carried to your credit and set against the interest of the bonds granted here, according to your agreement with him, and we have declined admitting a charge of Rs 344- for costs of law suits which we do not think ourselves authorized to pay, but refer their agents to you for a final answer. We have further in reply to their request, for draughts on you for the amount which now appears due, acquainted them that till our treasury shall be opened for bills of exchange in general we cannot comply with it.

8. In obedience to your commands we have called upon the attornies

Consn.
15 March.

of Messrs. Verelst, Becher, Alexander, Floyer, Charlton, Cartier, Rumbold and General Smith to refund the several sums which were paid away by the orders of these gentlemen in Council as ^a a commission on the revenue to sundry persons not entitled to it. We have had answers from some of the above attornies refusing payment of the money demanded, and we have ordered suits to be commenced immediately against their principals and shall undoubtedly proceed against them and such others, as shall return similar answers, in the mode you have been pleased to prescribe.

9. Suits will also be immediately commenced against the representatives of Messrs. Cartier, Russel, Floyer, Hare and Jekyll for the amount of the penalty incurred on Captain Afflick's first bills and prosecuted according to your directions.

10. Within this fortnight the cause in which the Company were parties against Mr. Forbes came to a hearing in the Court of Appeals, when the decree of the Mayor's Court which dismissed the suit was reversed and judgement was given for the Company in the sum of current rupees 3,176 and which it appeared he had gained by a *batta* on artificers' wages, and also for current rupees 47,934-3-11 being the difference between the immoderate advance charged by Mr. Forbes on the first cost of materials furnished for the cantonments of Berampoor and the usual profit of 15 per cent which the Court thought it equitable to allow on proof of its being taken by Mr. Forbes's predecessors in office and admitted as the usual profit in lieu of risk and interest, with interest and costs of suit in both courts, the whole amount of the decree in favour of the Company being the sum of current rupees 70,098-15-5.

11. From this decree the attornies of Mr. Forbes have appealed to His Majesty in Council and we as agents for the Company gave directions to our attorney to suffer the cause to be marked appealed without any motion for security on account of costs, in consequence of the advice you were pleased to communicate to us of the friends of Mr. Forbes having given ample security in England for any demand to which he may be subjected from this suit.

12. We have ordered authenticated copies of the whole proceedings in both courts with the exhibits etc. to be prepared for sending home by this ship that you may have every necessary document for defending the suit in appeal before the King and Council ; they are included a number in this packet.

13. You have also by this opportunity copies properly authenticated of the proceedings of all the courts martial held since the dispatch of the ships of last season.

14. You will observe that the chief trials have arisen from disputes between the officers themselves or from the refractory spirit of some young men in the service. We had occasion, in a former letter, to acquaint you of our having dismissed Lieutenant Hook the service for his stubborn and contemptuous behaviour during the course of two trials which he had, even we may say, industriously brought upon himself.

A perusal of these trials and of his letters, recorded in our proceedings already transmitted to you, will exhibit sufficient proofs of that licentious spirit and obstinate temper for which we deemed him unfit to continue in your army. His 2nd letter to the President which was mislaid at the time of the dispatch of the proceedings, is now sent a number in the packet.

15. In the long and intricate trial of Captain Thompson, which followed as a consequence of that of Mr. Hooks, you will perceive a deposition of Mr. Hardings which sets his own conduct in the most unfavourable light. We beg leave to remind you that Mr. Harding had been formerly dismissed the service for his turbulent and quarrelsome behaviour in it, but lately upon a representation from the General of his contrition for his past errors and serious resolution of amendment we thought to restore him to the service.

16. This happened about the very time of his delivering the evidence abovementioned, but this evidence was unknown to us. Afterwards when the trial of Captain Thompson was laid before the Board many circumstances appeared, proved by incontestible evidence highly derogatory of his (Captain Harding's) character. The deposition delivered by him was in many parts inconsistent with that of some other witnesses and contradictory to his own declarations, and the whole tenor of it manifested a violent and determined malice against Captain Thompson unbecoming the behaviour of an officer and the temper of a person giving solemn evidence at a court of justice. We thought it incumbent on us to take such notice of his conduct as, in our judgement, the justice of our administration and the honor of the military service required. And therefore judging him unworthy to hold a commission in the honourable Company's service we dismissed him a second time.

17. Among the trials is that of Lieutenant Dunbar for the murder of Din Mahomed by flogging him for the recovery of a debt. We shall observe little on this trial as the proofs will be full before you. It is sufficient to say that he was acquitted and that we could not approve of an acquittal which seemed to us to have proceeded on the grounds of the deceased dying in consequence of the exercise of a power, as the prisoner produced evidence to prove, justifiable, or at least excusable from the common practice of the country. We never can admit this doctrine and are determined with our utmost power to repress such in the minds of our servants here, either civil or military, as prejudicial to the reputation of your Government here as well as to the rights of mankind in general.

18. With these proceedings we transmit a number in the packet, a representation from the Judge Advocate General on some doubts which arise to him in the execution of his office and which he wishes to submit to your judgement and decision.

Consn.
29th March.

19. On Mr. Stewart's arrival here in conformity to your directions,

and to second your views in putting the office of Judge Advocate General in the hands of a civil servant and on the most respectable footing,* we fixed the appointments the same as that of a lieutenant colonel with the allowance of 16 rupees per diem during the sitting of the courts. We were guided in this by what we knew of the nature of appointments of that office in England, to which establishment all the other offices connected with your army here bear analogy.

Consn.
11th May 1772.

20. Mr. Stewart also represented to us at that time that he proposed with our concurrence to manage the business with one deputy only, instead of one to each brigade as formerly, setting forth the advantages which would attend the service if we would enable him by a suitable encouragement to fix on a person properly qualified, the small allowance formerly given, hardly permitting an opportunity of choice; we assented to the proposal and appointed one deputy only on the establishment with captain's pay and *batta* instead of three former with lieutenant's pay etc.

21. Major Ahmuty in consequence of the general order we issued for rectifying the mistake in the appointment of his rank, of which we have already advised you, addressed us a letter, which we now send a number in the packet as it contains a very proper representation and will serve to demonstrate that the rank we have now fixed him to, is the real one and that the information which was given in to your Hon'ble Board was not founded upon any advices sent home by him.

Consn.
25th March.

22. We formerly advised you of the steps we had pursued in obedience to your commands for limiting the expence of your whole building and fortifications to £1,00,000 and we mean to carry them punctually into execution; but we beg leave to represent that hitherto it has not been in our power to reduce them within these limits, as many of the works begun before the arrival of your orders were of such a nature as demanded to be brought forward to a certain length before they could be discontinued unless we had determined to lose the whole labour and expence already bestowed upon them. Such for example are the excavations of earth for the purposes of fortification, and the foundations of buildings, revetments and all kind of earth works already begun. As soon as these are carried on to such a length as to secure the part, the original plan of expence will be stopt, but it is our intention to compleat such as are now in hand and can be finished before the rains and to bring the rest to such a state as will not subject them to damage if discontinued at that time, after which we shall suspend every work in your new fort and dismiss all the coolies and artificers that shall not be wanted for keeping the works clean and in order, till the 1st of December next. In the mean time we shall form a new estimate of the whole works to be undertaken in the course of the next season throughout the Presidency, and we will venture to promise

that this shall not exceed the sum of £1,00,000.

23. In the 31st paragraph of our General Letter per the *Lord Mansfield*, we referred to you a memorial which had been delivered in to our Board by Mr. Wm. Berrie, setting forth his services in saving the Company's books and papers from a fire that happened at Patna in November 1770. We further acquainted you that we had wrote to the factory at Patna to satisfy us as to Mr. Berrie's conduct in this affair that we might, in consequence, acquaint you how far Mr. Berrie was entitled to your consideration. An answer was accordingly received from Patna in April 1771, but in the multiplicity of other matters it has escaped us to report to you upon it sooner. Mr. Droz who was acting Chief at the time of the accident declares that the place where the Company's books and papers were kept was surrounded by the flames, and in imminent danger of being destroyed, that this made him naturally express the greatest anxiety regarding them upon which Mr. Berrie at the hazard of his life made his way through the flames, and persevered in his intention, though at the utmost risk, till he saved every paper and book of the Company's except a few sheets of the ledger which loss was afterwards easily repaired. Mr. Droz ascribed the greatest merit to Mr. Berrie on this occasion and accordingly recommended him to the then Governor Mr. Verelst and to Mr. Rumbold the absent Chief. Mr. Berrie further represents that he declined a large pecuniary reward which was offered on the occasion, and this we believe to have been the case although we have no publick testimony or information of it. Thus the matter is fully before you and you will judge how far Mr. Berrie is entitled to reward for the service he executed. He is himself ambitious of obtaining an appointment on your list of civil servants, and we own we think him deserving of this mark of your favor, for he is a young man of capacity and of a fair and irreproachable character.

24. In the 52nd paragraph of your letter of the 25th March 1772, explanatory of your appointment of Mr. Fleetwood you are pleased to inform us: "It being the constant rule of the service for persons to serve five years in the stations they go out in, Mr. Fleetwood is therefore to serve five years," and in the 53 paragraph, "That you have appointed Mr. Jas. Barton who formerly held a civil employ at this Presidency to *return* to Bengall in the station of factor to *rank next below* Mr. Charles Fleetwood." As your orders on all occasions of this nature provide for every contingent circumstance we cannot help conceiving from the expression of the foregoing appointment that you mean a distinction, that it is the spirit of your orders that every person when first entertained in your service shall serve for the term of five years, but that a consideration shall be shewn to the past services of those whom you may be pleased to *restore* to your service ; in this light we are led to receive your appointment of Mr. Barton and to believe that it is not your intention to cancell the 2 years 10 months which he formerly passed

in your employ but that he is to continue in the progressive order in which you have placed him and rise to the rank of junior merchant on this establishment with Mr. Fleetwood, which interpretation seems further confirmed by your having expressly fixed his rank next to Mr. Fleetwood which could not be if others were to take place of him. We request, however, to be instructed by your orders on this subject.

25. Captain Wm. Fenwicke, who was originally appointed an ensign upon this establishment to rank next to Ensign Wm. Jas.

Carstairs by the 127 paragraph of your General Letter
 Consn. of the 9th March 1763, has addressed a memorial to
 23rd April.

us setting forth that he unjustly suffered a loss of rank by an official mistake in the date of the general orders of Fort William on his arrival here; although we were unanimously of opinion that the arguments advanced by Captain Fenwicke did support his pretensions and thus the original order and commission from the Honourable Court gave him the rank he claims which would be from the 12th October 1763, yet as the appointment given him by the Council here deviating from your orders, was of 8 years standing and did not proceed from an official mistake, for upon a revisal of his claim made by the President it was found that the mistake in the general orders was in the month and not in the year, i.e. instead of 22d September 1764, it should have been the 22d February 1764 and not the 22d September 1763, and as we were unacquainted with the reasons which induced the then administration to make such a deviation from your appointment, we thought it adviseable to suspend our determination thereon untill your orders could be received. and now beg leave to recommend him for reinstatement in the rank originally granted him, whereby he will stand next upon the list to Captain Henry Bevan.

26. The agent for the officers in the army has represented to us that the cloths from the Import Warehouse being now considerably

augmented in their original cost they come to them
 Consn. at a high price, which considerably diminishes their
 25 February advantages in the off reckonings. praying therefore

that we would allow them to receive these cloths at the warehouse at prime cost. This we declined agreeing to till your pleasure be known. He also desires there may be sent out annually 6,000 pair of shoes for soldiers and 2,000 pairs for officers.

27. The necessity for keeping up in your army that superiority of discipline which alone can render us formidable in India, urges us to request that you would be pleased to supply us with a number of intelligent and experienced serjeants, both for the European and sepoy battalions; we finding it impracticable to procure from the troops here a sufficiency of persons properly qualified for so useful a station. The number wanted we compute at about 300 at least.

28. This ship, the *Hector*, not having been dispatched within the time limited by charterparty, Captain Williams, has according to custom tendered a protest, a copy of which we transmit a number in the packet.

29. Mr. Jn. Osborne, late a lieutenant in your service, has sent in a memorial addressed to your Honourable Court setting forth the grievances which he thinks he labours under. We transmit it in course forbearing to make any remarks of our own upon it as the whole matter has been before you some time in our proceedings and the trials sent home.

30. The Military Paymaster has not been able to furnish us with the books of 1772 to send home by this ship as it was promised; all we can say is that we will endeavour, by every possible means, to obtain them by the next dispatch.

31. We have already in our several letters of this season marked the progress which has been made in the establishment of the new mode of winding raw silk. The difficulties which originally existed have in a great measure been removed under the superintendants of Bauleah, Commetcolly and Rungpore. But as it had not met with equal success at the factory at Cossimbuzar the Chief and Council deemed it necessary to recall Mr. Wiss from Comercolly to superintend the business of that department at the factory, and the charge of the filature at Comercolly has been committed to Mr. Wynne, one of the Council at Cossimbuzar, who entertains great hopes of making it turn out to advantage both in price and quality.

32. As we were determined to give a fair tryal to an experiment which if it should answer, may prove so beneficial to this valuable branch of your investment we have granted permission for such buildings to be erected as have been represented by the superintendants to be indispensably necessary to that end, and we are willing to flatter ourselves that in the course of the present year our endeavours to answer your expectations on this head will be attended with every prospect of success.

33. On application from Huzzouremull, executor to the late Omychund, for a draft on the Honourable Company for the value of current rupees 3,000 intended to be paid to the Magdalen Charity in England, we granted him two bills for £165-12-6 on the established terms of this season, which we hope will meet with your approbation.

34. The members absent on the Committee of Circuit returned to the Presidency on the 11th instant. During their absence and amidst the multiplicity of business, occasioned by the arrangement made in consequence of the abolition of the office of *Naib Dewan* and the removal of the *Khalsa* to the Presidency. we were obliged to suspend the several investigations enjoined us by you as well as the execution of many other of your commands.

35. As soon as this Board was again full, we came to the resolution of forming a committee to revise your several letters, and prepare for our consideration an account of all the investigations you have ordered since the time we received your letter to the Commissioners with a report how far these orders have been executed. We shall, when this is done, take

such further steps as may be necessary for your satisfaction.

36. The Export Warehousekeeper has represented to us that in adjusting the ballance of the warehouse for this year with the Sub-Accomptant he found the office charged with current rupees 9,720 paid to Captain Ross the 24th December 1768, for freight of saltpetre on the *Ankerwyke* to Bombay although the like sum stands in the warehouse books paid on the same account to John Miller, attorney to Captain A. Ross in March 1769.

37. It appears upon enquiry that Captain Ross had received the above sum of the treasury and that it was charged to the warehouse of course but that Mr. Floyer then Export Warehousekeeper being unacquainted with this circumstance also paid that sum to Mr. Miller for Captain Ross. In consequence of a general order of the Board for paying all the freight of that season from the warehouse we thought fit to refer the matter to your Honourable Court that you may take the steps which to you shall seem proper for recovering the sum in question from Captain Ross.

38. The only voucher we have been able to obtain is a note from Mr. Miller acknowledging that he did receive the sum of current rupees 9,545 on account of Captain Ross of the *Ankerwyke* from the Export Warehousekeeper in March 1769. We have not been able to find the original receipt given to the treasury by Captain A. Ross for the first payment although it stands regularly debited for that amount in the books of that year.

39. We are exceedingly concerned at the carelessness of the offices which has deprived us of sending you home such vouchers on this occasion as may be requisite to force the recovery of this sum should it be disputed, and we have issued peremptory orders that in time to come they make no payments without regular receipts taken in a book.

40. Since the closing of our dispatches, Mr. Barwell delivered into the Board a minute proposing a reduction of the Company's interest on your bond debts to 5 per cent and to call in and discharge the bonds now due, the owners of which should not be inclined to renew them at that rate.

41. This being the last of our dispatches for many months to come, we judged it improper to let a subject of such a nature pass without some opinion upon it although the want of time and the hurry of our dispatches has made it difficult for us to examine and reply to it with that accuracy which it may seem to demand. We have therefore entered our sentiments and resolutions upon it, which with Mr. Barwell's minute go a number in the packet.

42. Miss Tetly applied for a passage by the *Rockingham* after the closing of our dispatches by that ship and it was granted, but before she embarked she was married to Mr. Wedderburn your Master Attendant. Her bonds of indemnification for her servants under the name of Tetly were returned to us by Mr. Wedderburn after the departure of the ship and now go a number in the packet.

43. At the request of Captain Sampson of your marine establishment

Consn. we have granted him leave to resign and proceed to
25th March. Europe by this ship.

44. Captain R. Davidson and Lieutenant R. Teltham having also requested permission to resign on account of health, we have consented and granted them passages on the *Hector*. Certificates
Consn. from the surgeons of Captain Davidson's infirm state goes
29th March. in the packet.

45. Captain J. Sellick and Ensign J. Tatterson, both disordered in their mind, go home also on this ship.

46. Mr. T. Rider, cadet has likewise obtained our leave to quit the service and proceed on the *Hector*.

47. The following persons whose term of service is expired, go home in this ship on the terms of charterparty excepting John Smith who, having received certificates of his being disabled from further
Consn. duty retires on Lord Clive's bounty²:
25th March.

Ensign Tatterson	
Jas. Reeves late carpenter in the	<i>Albany</i>
John Smith and Thos. Beech	Serjeants
Wm. Suwards	do.
Thos. Groome	do.
Jn. Lowman	Private
Jn. Hooper	do.
Thos. Burguss	do.
Ed. Boswick	do.
Wm. Howard	do.
J. Brady	do.

The ballance this day in your *Khalsa* Treasury is rupees 20,68,300-5-15 in the General Treasury current rupees 5,42,089-6-6 and in the cash current rupees 51,410-14-9.

We have granted the following setts of certificates by this ship.

1 set dated 24 March 1773	
to Charles Stuart 3rd	
officer of the ship	
<i>Hector</i> , Captain Stephen	
Williams, Commander.	
payable to himself.	1,948-1-0
1 set dated 31st March 1773	
to Captain Jonathan Court,	
Commander of the ship	
<i>Prince of Wales</i> , payable to himself.	12,000-0-0

Current rupees 13,948-1-0

Fort William,
31st March 1773.
[Per *Hector*]

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants.

LETTER DATED 2, APRIL 1773

I O the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United East India Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Since closing our advices by this dispatch we have received the following intelligence relative to your ship the *Prince of Wales* from Captain Dunn of the *Nancy* snow just imported. Captain Dunn met a Dutch vessel, on this side of Ceyloan, which had left point de Galle the 15th of February and they sailed in company 14 days. The Captain told him that the *Prince of Wales* had put in there about seven days before having sprung her foremast, but had received no other damage, and as she was putting in a new mast that she would be out at sea again by the 5th or 6th of March.

2. Notwithstanding this accident, we trust the *Prince of Wales* will still arrive with you in good time and before the receipt of these advices ; but lest any further unforeseen or unavoidable circumstance should have happened so as to protract her arrival we judged it our duty to apprise you of these particulars to obviate any apprehensions or alarm for her safety.

Fort William,
2nd April 1773.
[Per *Hector*]

We are with the greatest respect,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most obedient and
faithful humble servants.

LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1773

Complaints against Captain Williams of the Hector.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We wrote you on the first instant by the *Hector*, Captain Williams, the last ship of this season.

2. We now take the opportunity by a French vessel, the *Triton* bound for Mauritius and L'Orient, to transmit to you the enclosed papers

conveying a complaint against Captain Williams with which we are necessitated to trouble your Honourable Court as we have not the means of redressing it here, Captain Williams being gone.

3. We will state the fact in as few words as possible. On application from the Town Major an order was granted as usual for receiving 9 discharged soldiers on board the *Hector* in terms of charterparty. A copy of this order, as it was given out signed by the Assistant Secretary in the common terms, is sent enclosed.

4. Captain Williams went down to his ship 5 or 6 days before her dispatch leaving his Purser to act for him in his absence, the order was regularly sent by the Town Major to the Purser, who accepted it and actually took up the passage money from the Military Paymaster, and the men were dispatched to the ship under the care of a serjeant with a letter from the Town Major as usual. The serjeant conducted them to the ship but Captain Williams refused to receive them saying (according to the affidavit of the serjeant sent herewith) that he did not want soldiers and would not take them, and alledging that he could not read the signature of the paper tendered him along with them.

5. We likewise granted a passage by this ship to Mr. Tatterson, ensign in your service, subject at times to be disordered in his mind. Captain Williams refused to receive him on board although Mr. Tatterson had presented the Secretary's order to him in Calcutta before he went down and Captain Williams affixed his name to the order as a warrant to the commanding officer to admit him into the ship.

6. In support of the facts we send attested copies of the orders for receiving the soldiers and Ensign Tatterson on board the *Hector*, of 2 notes from the Town Major and Mr. Tatterson with Captain Williams's letter to our Secretary and also the affidavit of the serjeant taken before a magistrate.

7. You will be pleased to observe that Captain Williams in this letter to our Secretary differs from the report of the serjeant, and assigns it as the only reason for refusing the soldiers that there was not an order sent down with them.

8. On this we shall beg leave to remark that if the original order from the office was not sent, it was the fault of his Purser who received it here as acting for Captain Williams in his absence, and that the note from the Town Major was certainly a sufficient warrant for him to admit them in the meantime. It is ever the practice here to retain the discharged soldiers to the last before the order is issued for sending them home, to give them opportunity of renewing their engagements here if they chuse it, as it happens almost always with some of them, and there is no instance before this of their being refused on board, although very often the passage money has not been received by the Captain or his attorney untill the departure of the ship.

9. Captain Williams takes no notice of Mr. Tatterson in his letter, sensible it may be supposed that the reasons he assigned personally for

refusing to admit him on board vizt, the order not being sufficient, could not carry a shadow of plausibility since he had actually countersigned it himself, and in fact had received all his other passengers on orders of the same sort.

10. We think it sufficient to lay these facts now before you, begging leave to refer to the 4th and following paragraph of our letter by the *Grafton* on a similar occasion.

Fort William,
8th April 1773.
[Per *Triton*]

We are & etc.

8

LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1773

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

1. We have already addressed you by this ship the *Triton* Captain Guor [...] bound for port L'Orient which is now under immediate dispatch, we seize the opportunity as the vessel is still in the river to send on board this letter acknowledging the receipt of your commands of the 23rd September last, just received overland by the way of Bombay and Madrass, and assuring you that your orders respecting bills have been and shall be punctually obeyed.

2. We further take occasion by this ship to forward the copy of the proceedings of the Mayor's Court in the cause between the Honourable Company and Mr. Thomas Forbes which was intended to have been sent by the *Hector* but could not be prepared earlier by the Register [*sic*] of that Court. This with the proceedings in the Court of Appeals sent by the *Hector* makes one complete copy of the whole papers on that cause.

Fort William,
19th April 1773.
[Per *Triton*]

We are & etc.

9

LETTER DATED 16 AUGUST 1773

Measures for protecting interests of weavers and manufacturers—funds for China investment—protective measures against outbreak of plague—

appointment of Barwell, Reed and Lane as Chiefs of Councils at Dacca, Chittagong and Patna respectively—Councils at subordinate factories abolished—activities of Board of Inspection—balance due from Society of Trade.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. You will herewith receive duplicates of our addresses of the 31st of March and the 2nd April per the *Hector*, also of the 8th and 19th April by the French vessel called the *Triton*. The latter served to acknowledge receipt of your commands of the 23rd September overland, since which we are honored with your several letters by the following ships. G.L. dated the 24th Nov. 1772 per *Mercury* received the 22nd June 1773 do..... 11th December do....per *Latham*..... 29th June do....(duplicate)....do.....per *Lord Mansfield* 29th June do....6th January 1773 per *Northington* 30th July do....(duplicate)....do.....per *Houghton* 9th instant

2. This will be conveyed to you by the *Mansfield* which is now dispatched for Fort St. George, agreeable to the request of that Presidency, to receive a full lading there having only from hence 3,000 bags of saltpetre and 50 tons of redwood amounting to current rupees 36,000.

3. Besides the *Lord Mansfield* the gentlemen at Madrass have desired us to furnish them with two more entire ships for the purpose of transporting their investment of this season to Europe, we have accordingly promised to send them two in case no accident should happen to prevent the arrival of any of those destined for Bengal from Europe and the other side of India and we hope to dispatch the remaining six in good season with a well provided investment from this Presidency.

4. We have resolved on dispatching the *Latham* direct for England on the 15th of October, and as considering the time this ship the *Lord Mansfield* must be detained for the receipt of her cargo at Madrass, there will probably be little difference between the time of the arrival of the two ships in England. We shall here confine ourselves to such matter of intelligence as appears the more immediately and materially necessary for your information. By the *Latham* we shall enter into a circumstantial detail of occurrences in this department since our last advices accompanied with our proceedings at large.

5. In our letter from the Secret Department you are acquainted with the occasion of the Governor's absence¹ at this period from the Presidency, we reserve the *Mercury* to send away express with the first material advices we may have to communicate from him in consequence.

6. Captain Fraser made a complaint to us soon after his arrival against Mr. Hamilton, the pilot, alleging that through his misconduct in

bringing the ship up the river she struck twice upon the Long Sand and was in imminent danger of being lost had not Mr. Castlemain, another pilot, opportunely arrived to their assistance and conducted the ship to Ingellie. A court of enquiry was immediately appointed to examine the conduct of Mr. Hamilton the result of which we shall advise when their proceedings are concluded.

7. You may depend on every attention on our part to comply with the injunctions you have laid upon us for the increase of your investment as well as for the improvement of the quality in the several articles of which it is composed.

8. In this place it will be necessary to remark that before the arrival of these orders we had reverted to and maturely considered those of the two preceeding years, noted in the margin, and observing how very strenuously you recommend a general freedom in the internal commerce of this country as the only means of recovering its manufacture (which have long been in a declining state) and restoring it to its former opulence pointing out at the same time the steps that should be taken to bring about so desirable an end and declaring your readiness to submit to the inconveniency which must at first attend the provision of your investment, either by *dadney* merchants or having no other preference from the manufacturers than what could be obtained by fair means only, we caused a publication to be issued in every part of the country setting forth that all weavers and manufacturers should be at full liberty to work for whom they pleased and on no pretence whatever be obliged to receive advances against their inclination either from the Company or private merchants with a reserve however of completing such engagements as they have already entered into. That we would receive proposals from all native merchants who might be willing to contract with the Company for any quantity of goods (not amounting to less than 20,000 rupees, of the proper assortments for their investment and to give satisfactory security for the performance of their engagements, and that we would receive for ready money whatever goods of the proper assortments should be tendered on suitable terms.

9. We further resolved that if any covenanted servant should attempt to force advances upon the weavers, or exercise any undue authority to make them enter into engagements or work against their will, he should be suspended from your service, and that any collector neglecting to give the natives redress on complaint being made to him for that purpose should be removed from his station.

10. Our advertising to receive proposals for providing goods for the investment, was rather with a view to encourage those who might be inclined to enter into such engagements to adopt that general mode of provision for the next year than to avail ourselves of any immediate advantage from it, as measures had already been taken to secure the greatest part

Consn.
12 April.
Instructions to the
Commission dated
15th September
1769, paras. 21-22;
General Letter
10th April 1771,
paras. 18 to 21;
also Committee of
Commerce pro-
ceedings of last
year.

of an investment for the present year in the usual way by the employment of *gomastahs*, and although we have not hitherto been successful in prevailing on the merchants to undertake it by contract upon terms that we considered to be moderate and reasonable, yet when they see we are determined, if possible, to destroy all improper influence and to effect at all events a fair and general freedom of trade, we flatter ourselves that we shall, by steadiness and perseverance be enabled to fulfil your expectation on this subject.

11. Conformably to the directions contained in your letter of the 23rd of September last for supplying your agents in China with money for the provision of their investment, we made public advertisement, that upon good and sufficient security, we would advance money to private merchants at the rate of 100 current rupees for 41 weighty dollars to be paid by them at Canton, within the space of 12 months from their receipt of the money here, with interest at 8 per cent per annum.

12. We informed the Council at Canton of this resolution and at the same time empowered them to draw bills on us at a like exchange payable 30 days after sight, with interest from the date of the drafts to the time of payment.

13. We formed this rate of exchange on a calculation from the value which you set upon the different currencies of this place and Canton of $\frac{2}{3}$ the current rupee and $\frac{5}{6}$ the weighty dollar, by which you will perceive that 100 current rupees make $40\frac{1}{11}$ dollars and that a small gain accrues therefrom on money paid here, though it is as near par as possible.

14. Captain Thomas Mercer applied to us a few days after this was advertised, for a sum of 3 lacs of rupees on the above terms, and having offered to enter into the following conditions for the Company's security, namely, 1st to grant a mortgage upon the ship and cargo, 2ndly to deposit the policy of insurance to be effected in London with the Court of Directors, and lastly, in order to provide against a failure from bad markets, to load on his ship a cargo of at least 50,000 rupees above the loan, and deposite in our hands the bonds of responsible men, for 45,000 more, we agreed to advance him the sum he applied for in the course of the month of October, before which time the season will not be favorable for a vessel to sail for China.

15. We sometime ago received intelligence from the Bombay Presidency of the plague having broke out at Bassora, we immediately took every precaution in our power in concert with the foreign nations to secure this country from the introduction of so dreadful a calamity by giving strictest injunctions to our pilots to order every vessel coming from the Gulph of Persia to perform quarantine and stationing an armed vessel in the roads to prevent their entering the river. Our proceedings on this occasion will appear recorded at large in the Consultations referred to in the margin, which shall be transmitted by the *Latham*. Our apprehensions are however at this time very much relieved by a report that the plague has since subsided, but as

Cons.
7, 8 Jun.

our public advices are silent as to this happy change, we shall not relax the cautious measures we thought it proper to take upon the first news of this alarm until we are advised from the Presidency of Bombay that there is no further cause for apprehension.

16. Conformably to your commands of the 24th November, Mr. Barwell was appointed to the chiefship of Dacca, and as we were of opinion that when you directed the chiefships of subordinates to be again held by members of your administration, it was your intention to reannex a suitable degree of responsibility and consideration to these stations, and that they should no longer be continued in a line so limited as we judged it necessary to draw for servants of a junior standing, we therefore resolved that the lands which had been separated from the Collectorship of Dacca since that post had been held by a member of Council should again be put under his control, that the Collectorship of Luckypore should be accordingly withdrawn and that the Collector of Sylhet, who before immediately corresponded with our Board, should be regarded as an assistant to the Collector of Dacca and the revenues of his district be brought into the accounts of the Dacca province as formerly.

17. We acquainted you in our letter by the *Hector* from the Revenue Department, that Mr. Reed had been obliged for the benefit of his health to retire to Chittagong in the month of March last and that we thought this a fit opportunity to accept the offer of his services to let the lands of that province out to farm in the same manner as we had done throughout Bengal. He was accordingly employed in that charge when your orders arrived and we therefore appointed him chief of that place to which we reannexed the factory of Luckypore and the Colinda *aurung*; and Mr. Lane was at the same time appointed to the chiefship of Patna. It next became a serious object of our consideration, what mode could be adopted at the subordinates under the direction of these gentlemen to retrench the expences thereof as much as possible, nothing appeared to us better calculated to effect this end than placing the business of the factories as well as the revenue under them as Residents with assistants instead of a Council and we accordingly carried this plan into execution by abolishing the Councils at the two former places and at Cossimbuzar.

18. The Resident will receive equal aid in the execution of the business from the gentlemen in the capacity of assistants, as he could have done had they been members of a council. The responsibility will now rest on him in the provision of the investment, as it does in the collection of the revenue, instead of its being lodged in a collective body where it can neither with precision be defined, nor blame fixed in case of failure in quantity or defects in quality; upon the whole we may further add that this system appears conformable to the ideas expressed in the 30th and following paragraphs of your letter per *Lapwing*, 28th August 1771.

19. In continuation of what we wrote you in the 22nd paragraph of our letter per *Hector*, we have now to notice that we have limited the charge of the New Fort to six lacs of rupees per annum, which limitation

commenced with the first of last month. This sum is to be disbursed upon the most necessary works, according to a scheme laid before us by the Chief Engineer, of which copies have been transmitted from the Board of Inspection to the different offices connected with the fortifications, and the clearest and strictest injunctions laid down to the heads of those offices to prevent the annual appropriation from being exceeded. The Board of Inspection have also regulated the charge of building and repairs at the subordinate factories in such a manner as will, we are persuaded, bring the whole of that expence within the residue of the annual sum which you have prescribed. The attention, we must add, of the Board of Inspection has not been confined to this object alone, they have been employed in narrowly inspecting and retrenching to the standard of the strictest economy the charges of every office at the Presidency and all the subordinate factories; they flatter themselves that their endeavors will produce considerable saving to the Company, and when they have compleated their review, for which purpose a few offices still remain to be examined and regulated, a more explicit detail of the necessary statements shall be transmitted for your full information.

20. In the meantime to assist the proceedings of that Board and to benefit as much as possible from the Governor's journey, they have embraced the opportunity of his visiting Patna, to transmit him their remarks on the accounts of that factory, and requested him to compleat an arrangement of the charges, according to the more accurate judgement which he will be enabled to form upon the spot of their necessity.

21. As we consider it as a happy presage of the revival of a branch of commerce in Bengal of the greatest importance to your interest it is with singular pleasure we can acquaint you, that the articles of your Europe exports, especially that of copper, sold at your last publick sale to great advantage. The most satisfactory information on this head will be received from a review of a comparative statement, which we transmit a number in the packet, between these late sales and those of the three preceding years; and as the price of copper still keeps up at the market, we have thought it for your interest to try a second sale of what has been imported by the ships arrived of this season, and have accordingly advertised it to be made on the 13th of next month.

22. In the 63rd paragraph of our letter per *Rockingham*, dated the 1st of March, we informed you that the duties due by the Society of Trade A had been completely paid up and that those due from the Society B there remained a balance of current rupees 6,66,940-15-9. The balance has been since reduced by subsequent payments to current rupees 5,00,000 agreeable to the account current which goes a number in the packet, and as the Society are now diligently exerting themselves in the recovery of their outstanding demands, we have reason to expect further payments soon and that the whole will be liquidated before the final departure of the ships of this season.

23. For investigating the proceedings of this Society, we have

appointed a committee consisting of a member of your Council and four senior servants, and they are accordingly prosecuting their enquiries in conformity to your orders of the 25th of March 1772.

24. The accounts deficiencies in the delivery of the *Lord Mansfield's* cargoe are transmitted numbers in the packet.

25. Lieutenant Mathew Bishop and Ensign Joseph Dernbush having been obliged to resign the service begged permission to return to England in the *Mansfield* as charterparty passengers; we complied with their request and the passage money has been paid here.

26. The balance in your General Treasury this day is current rupees 41,681-2-3 and in the cash current rupees 228-7-9.

27. We have granted the following sets of certificates by this ship, vizt.

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>
1 sett dated 14 August 1773 to Peter Bryson, second officer of the ship <i>Lord Mansfield</i> , Captain Wm. Fraser, Commander.	Himself 2,597-6-0
1 sett dated 14 August 1773 to Dugal Sands, surgeon of the ship <i>Lord Mansfield</i> , Captain William Fraser, Commander.	Himself 19,48-1-0
1 sett dated 14 August 1773 to Henry Fanington, purser of the ship <i>Lord Mansfield</i> , Captain William Fraser, Commander.	Himself 1,948-1-0
1 sett dated 14 August 1773 to William Greenhalgh, fourth officer of the ship <i>Lord Mansfield</i> , Captain William Fraser, Commander.	Himself 1,298-11-3
1 sett dated the 18 August 1773 to Captain William Fraser, Commander of the ship <i>Lord Mansfield</i> .	Himself 36,363-10-0
1 sett dated the 18 August 1773 to Ephraim Shillet, fifth officer of the ship <i>Lord Mansfield</i> , Captain William Fraser, Commander.	Himself 649-5-4
1 sett dated 18th August 1773 to Brodie Hopworth, third officer of the ship <i>Lord Mansfield</i> , Captain Wm. Fraser, Commander.	Himself 1,948-1-0
1 sett dated the 18th August 1773 to Alexander Oswald, chief officer of the ship <i>Lord Mansfield</i> , Captain William Fraser, Commander.	Himself 3,246-12-0

Current rupees 50,000

Fort William,
16 August 1773.
[Per *Mansfield*]

We are etc.

LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1773

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the *Bridgewater* and *Huntington* are safe arrived at Ingellee, and that since closing our present advices, we have been honored with your commands of the 11th of February by the former.

In consequence of your directions to the Fort St. George Presidency to employ one of the ships destined for Coast and China, either on account of the Company or upon freight, they inform us, that the *Huntington* has been let out by them to private freighters on advantageous terms and is to be delivered in China before the end of September 1774.

Fort William,
18th August 1773.
[Per *Mansfield*]

We are etc.

LETTER DATED 12 OCTOBER 1773

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The *Mercury* packet being now under immediate dispatch with important and interesting advices from the Secret Department we do not propose to delay her departure for the detail of common occurrences in this.

2. We have with great concern to acquaint you of the total loss of your ship the *Lord Mansfield* on the eastern brace at the mouth of this river. She was bound for Fort St. George to receive her complete lading and only carried from hence three thousand bags of saltpetre and fifty tons of redwood, amounting in value to 36,000 current rupees. The crew and passengers were all saved.

3. The packet was also saved containing as well the private letters as those to your Honourable Court. Ours by that occasion were under date the 15th and 18th of August last and we have since forwarded them to

Fort St. George by His Majesty's sloop the *Swallow*. We thought proper to embrace this opportunity because Captain Colpoys who commanded the sloop thought it extremely probable that the Admiral would dispatch a vessel of his fleet to England about this time ; should it be otherwise that packet will be put on board the ship the *Mercury*, as we have at the earnest request of the President and Council of Fort St. George, ordered her to call at that port, a compliance we judged we could not well deny notwithstanding the unfavorable season, as we do not know how important and necessary their advices to you may be. By these means you will receive the original packet intended by the *Mansfield* either by the King's ship or by the *Mercury*. The duplicates will go by the next ship from hence.

4. Hamilton, the pilot, by whose misconduct the *Mansfield* was brought into imminent danger coming up the river was regularly tried by a court of enquiry, agreeable to our last advices, and dismissed the service. We have since, on the unhappy fate of that ship, ordered a like court on Cummings, the pilot who had charge of her at that time, and till we have their report, we forbear saying anything as to the cause of her loss or the conduct of the pilot.

5. The balance in your General Treasury this day is current rupees 1,86,922-9-3 in the *Khalsa* Treasury 9,34,077-8-9 and in the cash current rupees 2,82,942-9-.

6 We have licenced a bulse of diamonds to be laden on board the *Mercury* by Mr. Charles William Broughton Rous, valued at 5,443 current rupees and consigned to Messrs. Lionel Darell and Thos. Kelsall.

7. Lieutenant Samuel Sears proceeds to England on this ship on account of his health.

Fort William,
12th October 1773.
[Per *Mercury*]

We are etc.

[P. S.] On a representation from Captain Sharpe of the great prejudice to the sailing of the *Mercury* from her being overmasted, to which he ascribed her remarkably tedious passage we appointed a survey and on a report ordered her masts to be altered, an account of the charge of which is included in the bill from the Master Attendant of general expences for that ship, which came in since writing the above and is now transmitted a number in the packet.

Fort William,
13th of October 1773.
[Per *Mercury*]

LETTER DATED 10 NOVEMBER 1773

Difficulty in obtaining bills on Bombay due to fall in demand for Bengal silk—impossibility of paying off debts—difficulty in pursuing suits

against former Councillors for refund of commission on revenues—Dundas's suit against Company—comment on Lushington's action in arresting a zamindar for debts—Company's servants prohibited from lending money to zamindars—office of Auditor created—allowance to Murad-ud-Daulah—Ramnarain's case.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The *Mercury* packet was dispatched on the 13th of last month with important advices from our Secret Department and she was ordered to call at Fort St. George to receive the dispatches from that Presidency. She left her pilot the 21st.

2. We also addressed you from this department by the same opportunity. Duplicate of the letter now waits on you enclosed.

3. Since the departure of the *Mercury* we have been honored with your commands of the 7th and 16th of April last by the *Harcourt* and *Egmont*. The former arrived here the 16th and the latter the 21st ultimo. We have also the pleasure to inform you that the *British King* and *Resolution* are now in the river from Bombay. The *British King* ran aground on mud point in coming up. She remained in that condition about two tides but got off again with little damage.

4. Our present advices will be conveyed to you by the *Latham*. Captain Prince, who sails for Europe directly with a cargo amounting, as per invoice, to current rupees 10,06,300.

5. Nothing can be more flattering to us than the satisfaction you are pleased to express in our zeal for your service, in your approbation of our measures; we feel ourselves impressed with sentiments of gratitude for these testimonies of your favor, and with the most ardent wishes to merit by our future conduct the assurance which you have given us of your support and protection.

6. When we reflect on the distance through which our advices must pass, before we can communicate to you our intentions or receive your orders upon them, the little time which we can spare from our multiplied duties to explain every doubtful measure, to obviate every possible imputation or to furnish with so comprehensive a detail of our transactions as may enable you to pass a decisive judgement upon them, and when we consider at the same time the popular odium to which your servants have been recently exposed and the avidity with which every anonymous tale has been received, which flattered the prejudices of the publick, we feel the necessity of such assurances to encourage and empower us to prosecute the laborious works of reducing the vast materials of your state into a consistent and regular system, and of restoring the credit and prosperity of your affairs. You may rely on the continuance of our endeavours for that end, and we beg leave to assure you, with the greatest sincerity, that we were

happy to unite with Mr. Hastings in every measure for the publick good as well those, which are in the common line of government as in those which you thought necessary confidentially to commit to his immediate conduct.

7. We wait with becoming attention for those remarks on our proceedings and the ulterior commands which you are pleased to signify it is your intention to send us at your leisure ; and we beg leave on this occasion to express our unfeigned concern at the late distresses and embarrassments of the Company¹ and their consequences which, we are sensible, must have loaded your Honourable Court with an unusual degree of trouble and solicitude.

8. We are in hopes that everything by this time has been so arranged as to permit the Company to carry on their affairs with success and in ease and tranquillity for the future ; and we even flatter ourselves that the regulations in Bengal, of which we have fully advised you by the *Lapwing*, if they meet your approbation may in some degree have contributed to so desirable an end.

9. We shall now continue as usual to advise you of the occurrences which are to be found at large in the Consultations sent in this packet.

10. We have resolved on sending three of your ships to be laden at Fort St. George agreeably to the desire of the gentlemen there, the *Bridge-water* and *Northington* on the 15th of December next, which is as early as they can with safety go on the Coast, and the *Harcourt* on the 5th January 1774. The remaining four besides the present one shall be dispatched directly for your port.

11. In the month of April last we dispatched the *Syren* and *Phoenix* schooner sloops for Balambangan with cargoes to the amount of rupees 2,28,535 agreeable to the indent received from Madras.

Consn.
12th April 1773 The first is a vessel belonging to this Presidency and the other we only freighted in part. The uncertainty of the situation of your establishment in that island determined us to use the precaution of ordering Captain Ford of the *Syren* to call at Fort Marlborough for intelligence and further orders. We have not as yet had any direct accounts from Balambangan but we have a letter from the President and Council dated on board the *Brittania* in Batavia Road, and we have written them in reply assuring them that we shall upon receiving the further advices, neglect nothing on our part to forward the success of their undertaking and that their indents for future supplies shall meet with due consideration although our situation here did not permit us without your orders to monopolize the whole opium of the country for the use of their settlement to the exclusion of the foreign companys and all other dealers according to the requisition of Mr. Herbert, their President.

12. We have supplied the Bombay Presidency with the greatest part of the 15½ lacks of rupees which they required from us for the current year. We at first made them large remittances in bills which the merchants here were content to give at 100 Surat rupees for 100 Moorshedabad *siccas*, the readiness they shewed in drawing bills on these terms in so much

as even to solicit our acceptance of them gave us hopes that we should find no difficulty in procuring them to the amount demanded, and in this expectation we desired the President and Council at Bombay to desist from drawing any more upon us, whilst the exchange with them continued on so disadvantageous terms for the Company as 96 Surat rupees for 100 Moorshedabad *sicca* rupees, but they had already given drafts upon us at Surat to the amount of 5 lacks of rupees besides such as were occasionally drawn from Bombay ; however we have since been obliged to repeal this request as a material obstacle has occurred to prevent our obtaining bills even at an advanced rate, for as the merchants here represent that the China raw silk has found sale on the Malabar Coast and it being of superior quality to that of Bengal, it has entirely stopt the sale of the latter, their principal and most valuable export to Bombay. The balance remaining to be sent is only about 3,80,000 rupees and we are in doubt how long it may be before we are able to remit the whole.

13. We have not as yet received any certain accounts of the plague having ceased in the Gulph of Persia for which reason we continue our precautions for preventing its introduction here.

14. We transmit you a number in this packet, an indent for some materials wanted for the use of the powder works which are not procurable here. We request you will order them to be packed up separate and directed to Mr. William Smith, Director of the powder works, as they might possibly be used for other purposes if sent to the magazine with the other military stores.

15. We also send you the annual indents from the different departments. They are specified in the list of packet and we hope you will find them conformable to your orders of 7th of April, which have been duly notified to the proper offices. That from the Military Storekeeper has been obliged to be postponed till next dispatch as the acting commissaries have represented that it is not in their power to get the inventories of remains finished, which are necessary in drawing up their new indents.

16. We observe your various orders, by the last advices respecting the remains of military stores, medicines etc., and directions have been given in conformity as also for everything requiring only execution in the different branches of your civil and military affairs, and we shall proceed with all possible dispatch in our deliberations upon those which require concert and arrangement.

17. We advised you fully in our letter by the *Hector* of Mr. Barwell's proposal for reducing the interest of our bond debt and the reasons for refusing our concurrence in his project. Soon after we found that instead of paying off any part of the debt, we by estimation, should be under the necessity of augmenting it by borrowing about 25 lacks for the provision of your investment and to answer the other ordinary and extraordinary calls of our Government, you are acquainted that the largest advances for your investment as well as the other disbursements are required at the season

Consn.
29th June.

of the year when the collection of the revenues is in most parts of the country suspended, by which means and by having abolished the method of paying the several contractors by bonds we found our treasury drained in the latter end of June and incapable of supplying the exigencies above mentioned, we therefore gave publick notice that the treasury would be open to receive loans to the above extent redeemable the 31st December next. We in consequence received to the amount of 18, 23, 665-4-6 which prove sufficient to supply our demands and we have the pleasure to inform you that we are now in a condition from the revenues coming in to repay the loan in due time, nay, we have even given notice that we will discharge any of these bonds that may be presented to us before the 31st December, the period fixed by agreement for redeeming them.

18. We have made out complete accounts of the army and navy donation, the debt to Bolackidoss Seat for which we beg leave to refer you to our proceedings of the 5th August where you will see them entered at large.

19. The agents for the donation to the squadron under the command of Captain Tinker have applied to us for payment of the bonds which we had given on that account, we complied with their application. They amounted with interest to crs. 7,54,000 after deducting 72,500 rupees agreeably to your orders, on account of the penalty on the second moiety.

Consn.
24th June.

20. The agents for the claim of restitution as well as those for Colonel Munro's demand addressed us at different times for payment of the balances due to their respective constituents, we acquainted them in answer that the funds appropriated for the discharge of these claims were also burthened with others to which you had ordered a preference but that we entertained hopes of being able to pay a part of their demand in the month of January when the others would be cleared off.

Consns.
5th August.
23rd September.

21. We have the satisfaction to inform you that since our address of the 16th August the Society of Trade B, have paid into the treasury the sum of 70,000 rupees in part of the balance due from them and they have just made tender of current rupees 70,000 which we have likewise received as a further payment on this account, and we think we may venture to repeat the assurance we have already given you that the balance of this account (now reduced to current rupees 36,000) will be fully paid before the departure of the remaining ships of this season.

22. In conformity to our promise in the 5th paragraph of our letter dated the 1st March, we have taken Mr. Bowey's bond for current rupees 3,640 in payment of the sum you were pleased to order him to refund.

Consn.
17th May.

23. Mr. Dean was taken ill very soon after those advices and died before we could obtain any security from him for the money, and as he died insolvent we deem the claim irrecoverable. We have appointed Mr. David Cummings Deputy Master Attendant, in the room of Mr. Dean, he

being next in succession on the list sent out by you.

24. In our dispatches of last season we advised you of the steps we had taken, in obedience to your commands, for the recovery of the commission money paid away by sundry commissions of Council, which were afterwards disapproved of by your Honourable Court; we are sorry to inform you that the difficulties we met with in this business, have obliged us to refer it back to you. We found that the members of Council directed to be sued, were all absent from this country, nor could any of their attorneys be compelled to answer to the suit, the only method then left for us to proceed in would have been by application to the Mayor's Court for a sequestration of their effects, but in this case, they having no real estates here, we found it would be impossible to fix upon their personal effects so as to obtain a legal attachment of them and had we even been able to have pointed them out, we were informed that the Court would not have proceeded to judgement till an answer from England could have been obtained, for these reasons we were necessitated to suspend our proceedings. The opinion of our attorneys and their resolutions upon it will be found in the Consultations referred to in the margin. In the meantime we transmit you a list of the persons against whom the claims lie and the particulars of each claim.

25. We beg leave however to point out to you that several of the persons who received the commission gave bond at the time to refund it in case it should be disapproved of by the Court of Directors. Of these Messrs. Aldersey and Kelsall have repaid what they received and taken up their bonds, and we doubt not that Messrs. Alexander and Floyer who are now in England will do the same which will obviate the necessity of suing the recovery from the members of Council by whose resolution it was paid, and we imagine this will be more eligible for you although we could make no direct claim on them for fear of weakening that which stood against the others.

26. About the month of May last, we had intelligence of Mr. Richard Dundas being arrived here from Pegu, and as soon as we had it confirmed he was ordered to return to England, agreeable to your commands, by the first ship of this season. Instead of a compliance he made a demand on the Company of 1,49,035-10 rupees which he pretended to be due to him on account of some timbers, the cargo of the ship *St. Helena*, which were taken possession of by the Government in the time of Verelst and he has since commenced a suit against us for the recovery. As his claim, for the reasons recorded on Consultation 2nd August, appeared to us without foundation we determined to defend the suit. You will be regularly advised of the issue but till the determination it will not be in our power to fulfill your commands for sending him home.

27. We think it our duty to inform you particularly of an incident which, although of no great moment in itself, we conceive might in its

consequence have a pernicious effect with regard to your revenues. Raja Kissenchund, *zemindar* of Nudca, being at the Presidency to which he was summoned on the business of his *zemindary* was arrested in the publick street by a writ from the Mayor's Court at the suit of Mr. Lushington.

28. As this was the first instance in our knowledge of any of the rajahs under the country government being made amenable to our British courts it became an immediate object of our Consultation after duly considering the charter of justice.

Consn.
20th May.

We declined coming to an opinion on the competency of the Court reflecting that this point might come before us in a judicial capacity by way of appeal, but we thought it highly incumbent upon us to call Mr. Lushington to account for a step so unprecedented and so detrimental, in its tendency, to the Company's interest. Were the *zemindars* subjected to be arrested on their attendance at the *Khalsu* for the business of the districts, the collections must suffer and in cases of tedious confinement the whole years revenue might be lost, besides we can easily suppose (knowing the intrigues of these men) that collusive suits against them might be instigated by themselves and undertaken to serve as pretexts for their deficiencies and non-payment of their arrears; on these grounds we judged that Mr. Lushington had acted in a most unjustifiable as well as unprecedented manner in this instance, preferring his private interest in a matter of small importance to him to that of his employers and in contempt of the authority of this Government, without any previous application to them, seeking redress in a new channel which could not fail to create confusion in the administration of the revenue.

29. Mr. Lushington, being called upon endeavoured to justify the act, and under these circumstances we should not have hesitated to dismiss him the service as a punishment equally just and necessary for his contumacy, but as the grounds upon which we proceeded might not be made apparent to the publick at home and as advantage might have been taken by misrepresentation, to raise a popular clamour against the Company under their present circumstances with Government as if they had dismissed a servant for having recourse to the laws of his country, as Mr. Lushington himself expressed on the occasion in the presence of the Board, we contented ourselves with recording our sense of his conduct and reporting the whole to you that you might see what a disagreeable dilemma the conduct of one of your covenanted servants has brought upon your affairs, and the credit and justice of your administration.

30. To prevent further inconvenience accruing to the publick business from others following the example of Mr. Lushington, as the Raja we understood laboured under many other incumbrances we resolved to give bail for his standing suit and ordered him to return to his province. Your explicate opinion and orders on this subject will be highly necessary for our future guidance in such cases. In the meantime we have published a proclamation forbidding all your servants under penalty of dismission to lend money to the *zemindars*,

Consn.
[.../ November.

under any pretence whatsoever, and requiring all persons who have claims against them to recur to the ordinary courts of the country for justice.

31. The endless applications which were made to our Board by the officers of your army here upon the subject of rank determined us as we
 Consn. formerly advised you, to appoint a Board of Field Officers
 6th May. to enquire into the different claims and to adjust them for
 12th do. a final decision. Their proceedings at length wait on you
 24th do. in this packet and our revisal of them appears on our
 31st do. Consultations sent.
 14th June.
 17th do.

32. In the various cases referred to that Board and which afterwards came before us in the report of their proceedings there were several which we thought it incumbent upon us to submit more particularly to the decision of your Honourable Court, as well on account of the peculiar circumstances which appeared in them as because the grievances they complained of were of older standing than the retrospective date to which we thought it necessary to restrict the enquiries of the Court when they first assembled.

33. The first of these references comprehends the cases of 57 officers of which we shall endeavour to give a concise state. It had been the practice to appoint cadets to commissions by favor without regard to the order in which they stood in the list sent from home. We conceive this practice to be irregular and contrary to your intentions and orders for their succession. Among the claimants abovementioned are 33, beginning with Lieutenant Blanch, praying to be restored to the rank which they held as cadets in your lists. The remaining 24 stand in a predicament which requires further explanation. In the year 1769 in the latter part of the government of Mr. Verelst he appointed a number of officers from the cadets of that season, in the usual manner, without attention to the lists from Europe. These gentlemen continued to act as ensigns till the month of May following when Mr. Cartier, who had succeeded to the government, made a total change in the rank of these officers, arranging them in general according to the dates of their arrival in India without attention to your original lists. These changes have occasioned much discontent and intricacy which we confess ourselves at a loss to remedy. The officers who were appointed by Mr. Verelst insist on the right acquired by their 1st appointment on the supposed principle that a cadet has no rank, those of Mr. Cartier's list plead prescription and length of possession while the 3rd party found their pretensions on the rank assigned them by your appointment on their first admission to the service ; you will observe that the court of inquiry were unanimous for restoring the claimants upon Mr. Verelst's appointment upon this principle abovementioned that whatever ought to have been the rule for appointments there was no absolute rank in cadets and therefore that there can be no supercession but where the person aggrieved has already received the rank of an officer. These gentlemen then having been once ensigns with a certain rank according to this principle were superceded when others were appointed over them.

However just this maxim may be in military ideas, we could not avoid taking also into consideration the weight due to your orders respecting cadets. It is a rule we now invariably follow in all our appointments, but whether to rectify the past by now modelling the ranks in the army by these orders would not be productive of greater hardships and inconveniences, and carry perhaps more the face of injustice, than to let the present arrangement remain is what we must necessarily submit to your consideration. For your guidance in this matter we send you complete lists according to the three arrangements above referred to.

34. Another particular reference you will find in the cases of Captain Thomas Baillie, Captain J. Bruce, Captain J. Home and Lieutenant J. Mattocks. These are claims merely of favor, the memorialists praying to be restored to the ranks they held before the resignation^a. But we did not chuse to encroach upon your more immediate prerogative of pardoning past errors in so capital a trespass, and of showing such indulgence to your servants as you may be pleased to bestow.

35. Captain Hampton's case is also particularly submitted to you as set forth in his memorial, which we have reason to believe exhibits a true state of his character and conduct during a long service in your army. Untill your determination is received he continues to serve on a brevet commission as captain.

36. Captain Camac's memorial, with the papers referred to in the proceedings, will furnish you with ample lights for decision in his case.

37. To the case of Captain Duff, which is also particularly stated in his memorial, we are desirous of adding this testimony in his favor that he is an officer of distinguished merit and services and of a most unexceptionable character.

38. Ensign Tatterson, of whom we wrote to you the 8th April by the French ship having been since reported perfectly recovered of the disorder he then laboured under, petitioned to be restored to his rank in the army and his commission was accordingly returned to him.

39. Conformable to your commands of the 11th February positive injunctions have been given to every cadet who has resigned [...] September the service in Bengal to return to Europe by the ships of this season; a list of them and copy of our orders will appear in the Consultation referred to on the margin.

40. You will receive a number in this packet the book kept relative to the supplies of cloathing and other necessities to the recruits as well as every particular transaction concerning them on board Consn. the *Bridgewater*, at the end of which is affixed a complete 2nd September. muster roll and size roll as taken on their arrival here by the Town Major and officer of musters. By the size roll you will observe that several of the men are $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the standard of 5 feet 4 inches, which you had fixed and none of them answer to the size rolls sent out.

41. We think it also our duty to represent to you the insufficiency in number of the recruits sent out this season for supplying the ordinary

Consn.
[...] September. and casual deficiencies of our army. Only 450 have arrived in the course of this season and it is estimated that 700 at least are wanted yearly to keep up the establishment.

42. The paragraph of your letter respecting the soldiers who had been obliged to pay their own passage money to Europe and refused the term of the charterparty was referred to the Town Major, for whose answer we beg leave to refer to our Consultation of the 2nd September where he declares the complaint made cannot be against this Presidency as no soldier whose time of service was expired had ever been refused a passage, if he desired it, and his expences always defrayed till his arrival on board the ship.

43. Captain Saml. Showers repeatedly applied to us for a balance of 16,000 rupees due to him in account for buildings executed by him at Eliabad. As we found he undertook this work by the express order of General Smith, then Commander-in-Chief, that his charge was reasonable in the particular articles and that he had been brought to great distress by the delay of payment, we thought, in equity, we could not avoid complying with his demand and ordered it to be paid accordingly.

44. Mr. McLeane, whom you have been pleased to appoint Commissary General of army accounts, arrived here in the *Egmont* about a fortnight ago. We have taken into consideration, as far as the time hitherto would permit the nature of his appointment, the power with which he is invested and the duties which you mean to impose on him and you may rely that nothing will be wanting on our part to carry into full effect your views from this appointment. We look upon it as of the most salutary nature to the interest of the Company and will endeavour to strengthen his hands in the execution as we are sensible it must prove an ease as well as a great assistance to us in compleating the plan of reduction of military expences.

45. It gives us sensible pleasure to find that several of our ideas on that subject correspond in a great measure with yours, particularly in the instance of employing elephants instead of carriage bullocks for the army. A resolution, plan and estimate regarding that business will appear in the Consultations referred to.

Consns.
21st June.
21st October.

46. You will observe from our proceedings of the 13th September that in conformity to our resolution of 27 April 1772, the contract for victualling the army and furnishing draught and carriage bullocks, elephants etc. was then settled for the year 1774 after due advertisements published for receiving proposals at the Presidency and all the subordinate factories. The rates stipulated in this contract are considerably beneath those reported by your committee to be paid at Fort St. George, yet we shall not be less ready to adopt any plan which may be proposed, consistent with our present engagements for reducing the expence of this branch of the publick service still lower.

47. You will further perceive that soon after the departure of the ships of last season, we took into consideration the reduction of the boat establishment and transmitted a plan for that purpose to the General for his opinion upon it; after the return of the President and General to Calcutta it was finally settled as far as regarded its immediate reduction, and a plan proposed for the new contracts which was recorded and agreed to be referred for decision till we could obtain the assistance of the Commissary General.

Consn.
21st. June
21st October

48. We have requested from Mr. McLeane a full communication of his ideas on the subject of further regulations and reductions of army expences, and we will proceed with all convenient speed to settle a general plan for them and to furnish him with instructions in consequence. In the meantime our first resolutions on his appointment will appear in the Consultation, 30th October.

49. By the proceedings of the Board of Inspection, transmitted in this packet, you will perceive the progress we have made in the retrenchment of our civil expences. We were too sensible of the necessity of such a reform to relax in our endeavor to effect this necessary work. The regulation of all the subordinates is compleated by which a very great saving has been made. To instance, at Patna, which was effected during the President's stay there on his way to Benaris, will not be less than 50,000 rupces a year. We have also passed through the different offices at the Presidency excepting those of the Military Storekeeper and Master Attendant which though not compleated have occupied a great share of our time and labor and we hope will be also finished by the departure of our later ships when we shall form and present to you a just estimate of the whole. In the meantime we beg leave to refer to our records at large in this department for a detail of what has come under our consideration to this time.

Consn.
19th August

50. As we have found by the repeated experience of many years past that the many useful regulations which have, from time to time, been formed have proved of no effect from the want of some immediate authority to enforce an obedience to them, we have established the office of Auditor in this department to inspect and pass the different accounts, conformably to the fixed arrangements, which office is now held in weekly succession by the different members of your administration; and as the establishments shall be finally compleated in the several offices and at the subordinates, the Auditor will be enabled with facility, to form his weekly reports and will always prevent a deviation from these rules.

51. It is with pleasure we acquaint you that the sales of your copper of this season fully answered the expectations we had formed by that of the former importation, which you were advised of the 16th August. We send a particular account of them a number in the packet, by this opportunity, by which you will perceive the medium rate to be about 64 rupces per maund.

52. When we read the 19th paragraph of your commands of the 7th

April, per *Harcourt*, we cannot avoid observing with a degree of concern that you seem to have misapprehended the exposition made to you in our letter of the 27 March 1772 upon the subject of our investment ; we only there endeavoured to explain the impossibility of recurring immediately to the plan, you had prescribed, of providing it by contract with *dadney* merchants except upon terms that would have unreasonably enhanced the price of the goods without removing the evils which had induced you to recommend that mode in preference to any other. To effect this seemed previously to require the establishment of a general freedom of trade, the grand principle on which your last orders on this subject have been founded and to which we flatter ourselves, you will find we have not been inattentive on the perusal of our records and particularly those of the 17th June last to which we beg leave to refer, as also to our first letter of this season under date the 16th August.

53. From an estimate laid before us by the Committee of Commerce the investment expected in time for the ships of this season will amount to about fiftyfour lacks of rupees, and equally divided amongst the five ships to be dispatched directly home from this Presidency will give a cargo to each of rupees 10,75,400. This calculation will yield a surplus tonnage on each ship of about fifty tons and we have thought it consistent with your interests to augment the surplus tonnage (for which half freight only is paid) by the purchase of ready money goods to the amount of ten lacks of rupees more, should they be procurable upon reasonable terms. This will increase the value of each ship's cargo to about 12 lacks. Every caution has been used in giving directions to the Export-Warehouse-keeper and other officers employed in this Department, to employ the utmost care and circumspection in the quality and valuation of these goods, and we hope your will rest assured that none shall be wanting on our part to correct the abuses which have introduced themselves of late years in this branch of your affairs, and although time is required for effecting a reformation where the evils have taken root deeply, we will not doubt by perseverance of accomplishing so desirable an object, being fully sensible that it is of equal utility and importance with the other grand objects of your administration at this Presidency.

54. Agreeable to our promise of the 31st March last, the Military Paymaster General's books for the year 1771 and 1772 being now prepared wait upon you, numbers in this packet, as well as copies of all the military disbursements and contingent charges for the same period. These we ordered to be prepared in consequence of a report made to us by the committee appointed to revise the general letters, and we judged it to be the sense of your orders contained in the 119th para of your letter of the 25 March 1772.

55. The above committee finally reported their proceedings to us on the 21st June and laid before us copy of a letter from the Military Paymaster General giving the fullest explanation, in his power, regarding the balance which, by the face of the books, appeared to be due to Mr. Parker

Hately and which, in your letter of the 10th of April 1771 para. 140 you required us to explain to you.

56. In compliance with your commands of 25 March 1772, para. 94 & ca. they also demanded from the Paymaster a particular state of the account with the late Captain Spelman which from the intricacy of it and the multiplicity of business prepared in his department for the present dispatch has yet prevented him from giving in, but we hope to receive and transmit it to you before the annual dispatch that you may be enabled to adjust the matter with the executors in England.

57. With respect to the books of the Export Warehouse, of which you treat in the 142 para. of your commands dated 10 April 1771, the committee on enquiry found, that there never had been any set kept in the same regular form as those of the Import Warehouse, but that the usual papers of the office had been regularly transmitted to you. We therefore directed the Export-Warehouse-keeper to consult with the Accountant and form a set of books to commence from the 1st May last, upon such a plan as to afford you satisfaction and you will be furnished with them in course.

58. As you had also given orders for a series of all the subordinate books since the capture of Calcutta, which you have not already received to be prepared and sent home, we accordingly gave necessary instructions to each of the factories and residencies and shall have the pleasure to obey your commands in forwarding them by the first conveyance after they are sent down to us.

Consn.
29th July

59. Copies of the courts martial and Chittagong revenue books which were lost in the *Verelst* are sent home numbers in the packet ; those of Midnapore were ordered at the same time as the above but have not as yet been received.

Consn.
21st June

60. Directions have been likewise issued for preparing copies of all the correspondence accounts of the Resident at the Durbar since the cession of the *Dewanee* which have not yet been sent home to you; when they are prepared we shall not delay transmitting them.

Consn.
21st June

61. We acquainted you in our letter per *Rockingham* of the inconvenience we were likely to suffer for the want of stationery as the intended supply for the use of this Presidency has been lost in the *Albany*. We have since been greatly distressed by a scarcity of this article. On a representation to this effect, from the Sub-Accomptant with whom the stationery is lodged, we gave him orders to make any private purchases that might offer, but the price was so extravagantly high that we were deterred from this step when your consignment of 3 chests, by the *Bridgewater*, arrived just in time to supply our immediate wants. The increased business of your establishment in Bengal give us great reason to fear that even the further quantity you have sent, in the *Harcourt* and *Egmont*, will fall far short of our necessities before the arrival of any of the ships of the next season.

62. Since your prohibition to all your servants from importing military stores, the traders in India have been deprived of the means of providing themselves with such as are absolutely necessary for their defence in those seas and for the protection of their commerce, and an application being made to us from some of them, settled in this place, for relief in this case and praying to be furnished with arms and other stores from the Company's magazine we thought it consistent with the duty we owe to you and with the honor and credit of your Government to support the traders under its protection and, therefore, agreed to a request of this nature preferred to us upon those persons depositing the value with us and engaging to deliver the stores, etc., into the magazines again on the ships return from her voyage they paying for what may be expended or rendered unserviceable.

Consn.
23rd August

63. Having had some reason to apprehend a scarcity of grain from the early ceasing of the rains this season, and observing it to increase in price, we thought fit to issue a prohibition to the exportation, induced by motives of prudence and humanity to use every precaution which depends on us for averting the dreadful calamity of another famine. In the present circumstance of things we cannot say there are strong grounds for such an apprehension as we believe there are considerable quantities of grain of last crop still on hand, and we find that since the prohibition the price is rather fallen so that we flatter ourselves although rice may not be so plenty as last year there will still be enough for the consumption of the country.

64. We are sorry to inform you that, in very severe rain which fell here in the beginning of September the Fort suffered considerably by the revetments of the upper ramparts, the redans giving way. The report of the Chief Engineer with his estimate of the damage plan for reparation are sent in this packet. We have not yet adopted any measure on this subject but intend to investigate it more exactly and to practice the most scrupulous economy in whatever work we find necessary to be undertaking.

65. The French Director & Council of Chandernagore never having yet been able to pay us their ballance for saltpetre in cash, we consented at last, to take their draught on the Treasurer of the Company in France for the amount valued at str. 7,298-18-10 payable to your order in London. The first bill is enclosed.

66. In consequence of our agreement with Captain Mercer for paying a sum of money into your cash at China, the condition of which we advised fully per *Mansfield*, we now enclose you the copy of his bond and mortgage of his ship and cargo. In case his attorney should refuse or neglect to make insurance you will have it in your power to make it yourselves, and upon our receiving advice here we shall be able to secure there payment of the premium out of the bonds which Captain Mercer has deposited in our hands.

67. Since our advices of last season Rajah Dirridgenorrain^a a pensioner of the establishment of Patna died, and on a representation from

the Resident at the Durbar in behalf of his widow and family, who were left in distress, as well as in consideration of the sentiments which have always been entertained by your Honourable Court of the merits of his brother, the last (late) Rajah Ramnarain, we thought it for the credit of your government here to continue half the pension to her, being 600 rupees per month.

68. We also continued an allowance of 400 rupees per month to Morad-ul-Dowla, nephew to Sujah-ul-Dowla, which he had long enjoyed as nominal register for the Dacca province till that office was struck off by the Committee of Circuit as superfluous. As he was so immediate a descendant of the family of the Nabob Sufraz Cawn⁴. and it appeared he had no other means of subsistence, and as he had further incurred considerable debts on the faith and credit of this monthly stipend, we agreed to continue it to him in the light of a pension.

69. In our letter of the 8 Sept. 1770, para. 84 we advised you of a debt claimed from the Company by one Ramnarain Misser, which appeared by the general books to be due to his father Ramnaut Misser. The Secretary was at that time ordered to call upon him for an explanation of the matter, but Ramnarain being absent from the Presidency we were not able to obtain it. He has since given a very particular one, which you will find recorded on our Consultation of 16th Sept., to which we beg leave to refer you and request your determination upon it as this is the only information we have been able to get upon a subject of so ancient a date.

70. We duly attended to your commands relative to Mr. John Holme, but in consideration of what we wrote you per *Lupring* of the sense which he has testified of his past error, adverting
 Consn. also to his former services, which had been honored
 9th October with your approbation, and being more particularly swayed by the representation made to us in his favor by the President of the Board of Customs, whereby it further appears that in quality of Secretary to that Board and Collector of the government custom house he has by his diligence and services made ample atonement for his misconduct. We have availed ourselves of the latitude which you reserved to us of dispensing with your orders for suspending him and we doubt not but he will so demean himself as to merit your future countenance.

71. In consequence of your revoking the orders for recalling Mr. Palk from Patna we have, on his application, reinstated him in his former station at that factory.

72. Lieut. Colonel Leslie and Major White are arrived here, the former was immediately given out in orders as Quarter Master General to which post you were pleased to appoint him.

73. Of the civil servants appointed this season the following arrived, and the greatest part of them were stationed in offices, the rest shall be appointed immediately after this dispatch.

Messers—James Grant/Richard Gosling/John Sykes/Daniel Octs. Barwell/Thos. Philip Broughton/Henry Martin Creswicke/James Wilhers/John Hill/James Ross (from Madrass)/William Douglass/Heny. Chy^l. Plowden (in the country before)/Thomas Douglass/Thomas Law /James King (do.)/William Hunter/Philip Cole (do.)/Eldred Addison/Henry Latham/W.N.W. Hewitt/Laurence Mercer/Robert Beebee/Thos. Hoissard (do.)/Arthur Hesilridge/Robert Pott/Ramsay Hannay/George Rochford (Dead)/George Templer/Francis Miur/Thos. Braithwaite/Robert Gale/David Vanderheyden/William Atkinson (do.)/Thos. Evans/Benjamin Grindal/Edward Otto Ives/Mathew Leslie.

74. The following covenanted servants are deceased since our letters of last season.

Messers—Achibald Staples, Thos. Broadhurst, George Rochford, William Boughton and Chas. Wm. Teasdale.

75. The Admiral has sent His Majesty's frigate the *Dolphin* round here, under the command of Captain Johnson, to be repaired and we offered him all the assistance in our power in putting his ship into proper order for returning to rejoin the fleet.

76. We have just finished the enquiry into the cause of the loss of the *Mansfield* and have approved the opinion of the court, appointed for that purpose, who found that it was owing to an error of judgement in the pilot in carrying the ship out of the proper channel and persisting in his course after he found the water to lessen and the ground to harden. On the confirmation of this judgement we thought it necessary to dismiss the Pilot, William Cummings from your service, although we must, in justice, declare that his conduct hitherto has been irreproachable and he has long past for one of the ablest and most experienced pilots in the river.

77. It is our duty further to observe that the *Mansfield* drew upwards of 20 feet water at the time she struck instead of 18 feet 6 ins. the draught at the time of her dispatch, and this is accounted for by her receiving aboard two sloop's load of stores afterwards. It has undoubtedly been a practice for some time since the vessels of the present bulk have been employed to load them to the depth of 20 feet or upwards, and it seems by the opinion of the court of enquiry that they are more fit for sea with that burthen. Nor did the pilot scruple to take charge of her in that state.

78. All these points are submitted to your judgement, which will of course produce a revisal and either a confirmation of amendment of your present standing orders. On our part we shall take such immediate steps as are within our power for correcting any abuses which in those matters time may have introduced.

79. Capt. Henry Hornby, Lieut. John Scott and Lieut. Samuel Farmer, three officers lately on this establishment, having been long afflicted with sickness, on producing certificates from the surgeons of the necessity of their return to Europe for a recovery, we have granted them permission to resign the service and to go home by the *Latham*.

80. Mr. Abraham Dakin Ransom, one of your convened servants, having desired leave to resign the service also takes his passage home on board the same ship.

81. Mr. Wm. Lushington having requested leave to resign the service, we have granted him a passage with his family in this ship. He carries with him six servants, natives of this country, for whom he has given bonds of indemnification which are sent numbers in this packet.

82. The following soldiers whose time of service is expired are permitted to go to England in the *Latham* on the terms of charterparty ; their passage money has been paid here.

Samuel Edwards	}	Matrosses of Artillery	
John Pidgeon			
Rony Mc Donald	}	Private soldiers of Infantry	John Mc. Kutchin
Lewis Grant			Richard Bundy
Philip Solomon			James Cane
Robert Bradford			Samuel Gibbs
John Mudgridge			
John Tilley	}	Drummers	
Saml. Dilks			

83. We have licenced sundry bulses of diamonds and a chest containing 2031 Spanish dollars to be sent home in the *Latham*. The particulars of them will appear in the register which makes a number in the packet.

84. The balance remaining in your General Treasury this day amounts to current rupees 4,21,721-1, in the Khalsa Treasury current rupees 5,04,862-1-9 and in the cash current rupees 1,90,288-11.

85. We have granted the following sets of certificates by this ship.

To whom granted	To whom payable
1 set dated 27th Oct. 1773 to Capt. John Sealy Commander of the ship <i>Northington</i> .	} himself 36,363-10-0
1 set dated 27th Oct. 1773 to Thomas Audley second officer of the ship <i>Northington</i> Captain John Sealy Commander.	
1 set dated 27th Oct. 1773 to William Dainwood third officer of the ship <i>Northington</i> Captain John Sealy Commander.	} himself 1,948-1-0
1 set dated 27 Oct. 1773 to Jacob Dawson fifth officer of the ship <i>Northington</i> Captain John Sealy Commander.	
	} himself 649-5-0

1 set dated 27th Oct. 1773 to Jahue Bradford Surgeon of the <i>Northington</i> , Captain Sealy Commander.	} himself 1,948-1-0
1 set dated 27 Octr. 1773 to Robt. Ried Purser of the <i>Northington</i> , Captain John Sealy Commander	} himself 1948- 1-0
1 set dated 27 Oct. 1773 to Captain John Sealy account of the late Charles Thomson fourth officer of the <i>Northington</i> , Captain John Sealy Commander	} himself 1,296-11-3
1 set dated 12 Oct. 1773 to Capt. John Prince Commander of the <i>Latham</i> .	} himself 36,363-10-0
1 set dated 12 Oct. 1773 to Thos. Timbrel first officer of the ship <i>Latham</i> , Capt. John Prince Commander.	} himself 3,246-12-0
1 set dated 12 Oct. 1773 Geo. Scullough second officer of the ship <i>Latham</i> , Capt. John Prince Commander	} himself 2,597- 6-0
1 set dated 12 Oct. 1773 to Geo. Lolly fourth officer of the <i>Latham</i> , Capt. John Prince Commander.	} himself 1,298-11-3
1 set dated 12 Oct. 1773 to Lewis Balfour third officer of the <i>Latham</i> , Capt. John Prince Commander.	} himself 1,948- 1-0
1 set dated 11 Oct. 1773 to Charles Menzies Surgeon of the <i>Latham</i> , Capt. John Prince Commander.	} himself 1,948- 1-0
1 set dated 12 Oct. 1773 to John Bowers Hodson Purser of the <i>Latham</i> , Capt. John Prince Commander.	} himself 1,948- 1-0
1 set dated 12 Oct. 1773 to John Bower Hodson Purser of the <i>Latham</i> , Capt. John Prince Commander	} himself 1,948- 1-0
1 set dated 12 Oct. 1773 to Francis Anstruther fifth officer of the <i>Latham</i> , Capt. John Prince Commander	} himself 649- 5-9
1 set dated 29 Oct. 1773 to Robt. Wood third officer of the <i>Bridgewater</i> , Capt. Nicholas Skottow Commander.	} himself 1,948- 1-0
1 set dated 29 Oct. 1773 to Nicholas Skottow Commander of the ship <i>Bridgewater</i> .	} himself 36,363-10-0
1 set dated 29 Oct. 1773 to Robert Allen Purser of the <i>Bridgewater</i> , Captain Nicholas Skottow Commander.	} himself 1,948- 1-0

86. Since writing the foregoing we have received two addresses of which we transmit you copies by this packet. One of them is from the Head Surgeon in answer to the paragraphs of your General Letter of the

7th April which were sent to him for his information and observance. The other is from the Accountant giving his reasons for not being able to send you, by this dispatch the general statement of receipts and disbursements upto the 31st. of July last and the commission account up to the 31st of August.

Fort William,
10th November, 1773.
[Per *Latham*]

We are etc.

P. S. We have just now received news of the *Beshborough's* arrival in the river from Bombay.

13

LETTER DATED 16 DECEMBER 1773

News of persons returning to Europe.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. As we have been very full in our advices of this season we shall defer enlarging upon the subjects which have come before us since the departure of the *Latham* for a few days until we dispatch the *Houghton* and *Egmont* direct from hence. The present opportunity of the *Bridgewater* and *Northington* (which two ships are going to load at Fort St. George and will be dispatched to you by the gentlemen of that Presidency), therefore, serves only to advise you of what relates more particularly to them; the *Bridgewater's* invoice amounts to Rs. 45,73 (. . . .) the *Northington's* Rs. 51,730.

2. In the former General Sir Robert Barker has taken his passage; being desirous of returning to Europe and the present state of tranquility there as well as in these parts affording him a favourable opportunity for the purpose he has accordingly resigned the command of the army which will in course devolve to Coll. Chapman the next officer in succession to the General.

3. Captn. Geo. Burrington and John Cockerell and Lieut. Willm. Davy have also been permitted to resign the service and proceed in the same ship.

4. Besides these we have granted permission to Major Fortnum to send two children to England under the charge of a servant maid for whom he has entered into a bond of indemnification which makes a number in the packet.

5. Lieut. Coll. George Sempill and Captn. William Dunbar have resigned the service and are permitted to take passage on the *Northington*

to Fort St. George on their return to England refering them to the President and Council there for leave to continue their voyage in the same ship a rule which we thought necessary to adopt in general for the accommodation of the gentlemen from Madrass who have no other means of procuring a passage to Europe than by these ships altho' in the case of Sir Robert Barker we thought we could not refuse a direct passage according to his request for himself and family.

6. Four soldiers whose term of service is expired are allowed to return to Europe on the terms of charter-party by the *Bridgewater* and the usual passage money has been paid to Capt. Skottowe. Their names are: John Modgridge, James Cane, Philip Solomon and Richard Bundy.

7. We have licensed three bulses of diamonds and one of pearl p. the *Bridgewater* and one Bulse of diamonds besides four chests of bullion P. the *Northington* for the value and further particulars we beg leave to refer you to the registers which go home a number in the packet of each ship.

We are with respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithfull

humble servants,

Warren Hastings/Rt. Barker/Wm. Aldersey/

P.M. Dacres/James Lawrell/H. Goodwin/

J. Graham/George Vansittart.

Postscript. Since writing the foregoing we have been applied to by the Town Major for the following persons whose terms of service were expired to be admitted on board the *Bridgewater* as charterparty passengers; we have accordingly ordered Captain Skottowe to receive them and the passage money has been paid here. Their names are:

William Downes	Cadet
John Pratt	Bombardier
James Forsuth	Gunner
William Robinson	Matross
Samuel Edwards	do.
John Coster	Serjeant
Frederick Bartle	} Privates
Roderick Hardy	
Thomas Hamyd	
William Tapp	
John Guteridge	
Daniel Gordon	
Mathew Smith	

You will receive numbers in the packet by the *Bridgewater* indemnity-

fication bonds for two servants taken home by the General.

Warren Hastings/R. Barker/Wm. Aldersey/
James Lawrell/J. Graham.

Fort William,
16th December 1773.

14

LETTER DATED 30 DECEMBER 1773

Accident to the British King—new post of Controller of Investment—embargo on exportation of grain—new regulation for draught of water of loaded ships in the Hooghly—further remittance from Society of Trade B—chaplains seek increase in their stipends—office of Quarter Master General created—acknowledgement of receipt of money from Nawab Vazir.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1st. We addressed you very fully by the *Latham* under date the 10th of last month, a duplicate of which address we now send, and also of a short letter which we wrote you by the *Bridgewater* and *Northington* despatched for Madras on the 15th inst.

2nd. This will be conveyed by the *Houghton*, Captn. Smith, who sails for England directly with cargo amounting for invoice to current rupees.

3rd. The *Egmont* will follow in a few days with a cargo of about the same value and duplicates of the *Houghton's* despatches.

4th. By this we transmit you our Consultations from the ultimo to the 20th of the present month.

5th. In these will be seen the occurrences since the last despatch which from the shortness of the period are necessarily few and being also of common importance require little to be said upon them. We shall, therefore only beg leave to refer a few reads to your more particular notice.

6th. The accident which happened to the *British King*, notwithstanding the information which received and communicated to you, is likely to prove of more serious consequence than was then apprehended. You will observe that on a survey it was found her bottom was considerably damaged and it is even suspected her keel is broken.

Consn.
13th Dec.

7th. In this situation consulting what was best for the interest of the Hon'ble Company, we ordered the ship upto town where we propose to

leave her down, and as by the report of the carpenters there will, if she will bear the operation, be no difficulty in repairing her even if her keel be broken, we expect she will be properly fitted up and ready to take in the cargo destined for her so as to depart from this in due time.

Consn.
13th Dec.

8th. The business of your investment which we have always regarded as most interesting in its consequences being nevertheless in its detail, little subject to the immediate inspection of the Board and the multiplicity and variety of other objects which necessarily engross our attention rendering it still more difficult to attend properly to that branch, especially since the absence of several of our Members at the Chiefships, we thought it expedient to consign it to the care of one of our number particularly, and as Mr. Aldersey had as the head of the Committee of Commerce bestowed peculiar attention on that business, we entrusted him with the new charge under the name of the Comptroller of the Investment. All the detail, current business, and aurung correspondence are managed by him, and he reports to us and takes our orders occasionally. We hope this arrangement will prove of great service to the Company, and meet your approbation.

9th. Our former advices informed you of our having thought it necessary to impose an embargo on the exportation of grain till such time as we could procure satisfactory intelligence of the crops and the quantity of grain on hand in the country which we had then reason to apprehend would both prove defective, but we have now the pleasure to inform that from the reports of the collectors in various parts of the country we were satisfied there was no ground for the fear of any uncommon scarcity and that altho' the last crop had in some places been a good deal injured by the drought there would still be grain enough of this and the preceding harvest which was very plentiful not only for the consumption of the provinces, but also a quantity to spare for exportation. For these reasons we took off the embargo on the 16th of this month. Every precaution was taken on this occasion to prevent any ill effects from the embargo, or advantage from being made of the repeal of it. The probability of the latter was made known both to the foreign settlements and to the public as soon as we could form a judgement of the expediency of such a measure, and the repeal was published on the morning after the resolution passed in Council for it. We have shipped 6000 bags of rice on the *Besborough*, Captn. Riddel, for Bombay at the request and on account of that Presidency.

Consn.
16th Dec.

10th. Captn. Riddel was dispatched from this on the 15th instant that agreeable to your orders he might pursue the destination of his further voyage.

11th. The Presidency of Bombay some time ago dispatched the *Hawke* gallivat to us with a requisition for an immediate and most extensive supply of money, even to the amount of 26,50,000 rupees, so large and unusual a demand became matter of serious deliberation with us as will appear in the Consultation referred to in the margin.

Consn.
9th Dec.

12th. We considered that at a time when your commander were so express and urgent for making the most ample remittances from this Presidency that we were under the most severe injunctions not to draw on your Hon'ble Court nor increase our bond debt when it was already so large that to increase this debt might be productive of the most dangerous consequences and when our whole study has been to manage our resources so as to accomplish these ends in the line prescribed to us, we should be wholly unjustifiable in deviating from it, either by disappointing your expectations of a large investment or accumulating a new debt for the sake of supplying their demand to an extent which we did not find warranted by your orders either expressed or implied, and which could not be effected without draining these provinces of a considerable quantity of their remaining specie. We had already at the beginning of the season agreeable to your instructions which require us to furnish every reasonable aid to the other Presidencies engaged to supply them with 15 lakhs in the course of the season, which we mean to fulfil altho' upon very disadvantageous terms, but as to the rest we found ourselves under the necessity of giving them as absolute refusal, acquainting them with our circumstances and recommending to them to supply themselves by the same means of borrowing on interest to which we should have been obliged to have had recourse to had we undertaken to remit them beyond our own ability and amount of our resources. The account and minutes on Consultation will give the fullest light on this subject.

13th. On the orders being given out for a strict compliance with the antient regulation for the draught of water of loaded ships going out of the river we received an address signed by the commanders of the charterparty ships then in the river representing the prejudice that would accrue to themselves and their owners by such an order that the draught of 18 feet 6 inches prescribed by the former rules was certainly ascertained with a reference to the small size of the vessels then employed, but cannot with any propriety be applied to the large ships now in the service. But such a limitation would entirely preclude them from the advantages of surplus tonnage and in fine that it could never be the intention of your Hon'ble Court to employ large ships and then prevent them from receiving their proper loading. On this representation and finding from the report of our Master Attendant that the allegations in it were true, we determined to alter the regulation to the extent of 2 feet, permitting a draught of 20 feet 6 inches instead of the former standard.

14th. Since our last we have received from the Society of Trade B further discharge of their balance the sum of rupees and there now remains only Rs. 1,20,000 due from them which are in expectation of receiving in the course of this season.

15th. Mr. Grueber has represented that an interest note of this in Presidency for curnt. Rs. 4000, which was assigned over to him in the year 1770 has been unfortunately lost with his property, and he craves the renewal,

upon giving the usual bond of indemnification ; we wait your orders on this subject as in the case of Captn. Toone and others*which were before referred to you in similar circumstances.

16th. We have received lately an address from your chaplains at
 Conan, this Presidency representing the scantyness of their ship-
 13th Dec. ends and soliciting an augmentation from the fund of the unappropriated commission on the revenue. As you have positively reserved to yourselves the right of the disposal of this fund whatever may be the pretensions of the candidates who apply to us for a share in it, we could only acquaint the chaplains that we should refer their application to you. This, however, we now beg leave to do in the strongest terms for when we consider the rank they hold in your list of civil servants and that they are precluded by the nature of their functions from the benefit of other means and resources beyond their established allowances we cannot but subscribe to the truth of their representation that they are not only deprived of all comfortable prospects of acquiring a competence in a reasonable course of time but that their stipends are really inadequate to their unavoidable expences. You must be sensible that the character they fill if not supported with a degree of consideration in the eyes of the settlement will speedily sink into contempt and under such circumstances it is impossible that any good effects can be expected from their priesthood either on the minds or morals of the people. Permit us to say that these are objects which demand attention now that your settlement is so very much increased in its numbers and that they cannot be better accomplished than by putting your chaplains above the necessity of descending to any mean or improper methods of obtaining an adequate support. Having thus imparted our sentiments on their application, we submit it with confidence to your impartiality and justice.

17th. Solicitous of fulfilling in every respect your intentions in the appointment of a Quarter Master General, we desired the General to furnish us with his ideas as to the duties of that office which he accordingly prearepd and laid before the Board, and our determination upon it was published in general orders.

18th. The duplicate of the letter per *Bridgewater* snow sent will probably arrive before the original, and will inform you of the resignation of Sir Robert Barker and of his taking passage for England on that ship. You will also find there the mention of such other passengers as embarked by the same opportunity and we have only now to notice that Captn. Burrington one of the number resigned merely on account of a bad state of health and is furnished with certificates accordingly—a circumstance omitted in the former letter.

19th On this ship we have permitted Captain Patk. Duff to embark after granting him leave to resign the service.

20th. We had occasion in former letter to take particular notice of the merits and service of this officer. His present application for leave to resign proceeds solely from the ill state of his health which obliges him to

revisit his native country in hopes of repairing his constitution which tho' by nature remarkably strong and rebust has been worn out with long and severe service in these climates. It is 10 years since he first was received into your army from His Majestys service where he held the commission of Lieut-Fireworker of artillery and served at your Presidency of Bombay, and we again repeat our entire approbation of his conduct while under our Presidency and declare that in our opinion he is deserving every mark of favour which you may be pleased to bestow upon him.

21st. Lieut. John Henderson and Ensign Robert Anderson have desired leave to resign the Company's service and proceed to England by this ship which we accordingly granted them.

22nd. Mr. Graham one of the Members of our Board having requested permission for two of his children named William and Francis to take passage to England on board the *Houghton* with two servants to attend them ; we have issued the necessary orders to Captain Smith and taken from Mr. Graham the usual indemnification bonds for the servants which make numbers in the packet.

23rd. Mr. Christina Hay is also allowed a passage in this ship ; she petitioned us to be put upon the list of officers widows who were entitled to receive the pension in England, and we have given her a certificate in the customary form that her husband Lieut. John Hay deceased in your service here which she will of course produce on her arrival in England and bring the other proofs before you required by the printed regulations.

24th. William Johnson a matross is the only person allowed a passage to England in the *Houghton* on the terms of charterparty and the money for his passage has been paid here.

25th. We have licensed severall pipes of Madeira wine to be sent in presents by the *Houghton* as will more particularly appear by the register in the packet.

26th. A register of the bullion and precious stones shipt on board by our permission also goes a number in the packet.

27th It is with satisfaction we can inform you that we have received into our treasury the whole of the money lately paid by the Vizier¹ and consigned over to the charge of Mr. Lambert at Fyzabad, amounting to 21,50,000 Fyzabad Rs. a sum which will prove a seasonable supply to us at present and be a considerable advantage to the circulation of the country.

28th. In the General Treasury there appear to be this day a balance of currt. rupees 4,07,364-1-6 exclusive of the above sum received from the Viziar. In the *Dewannee* Treasury *Sicca* rupees 6,90,382-6-10, in the cash currt. rupees 2,54,159-3-3.

29th. A letter from our Accomptant went a number in the packet per *Latham* explaining the reasons for our not having been able to transmit the annual accounts of receipts and charges at this Presidency according to your orders by the first ship of the season. We must now apologize for a further delay in this particular, as altho' these have been compiled by our Accomptant from the subsidiary accounts; we have not yet had time to

examine them. They shall be forwarded by a future ship accompanied by such explanations as may be necessary.

30th. We have granted certificates by this ship as per following list.

	Currt. Rupees
1 sett dated 16th Nov. 1773 to William Hall, first officer of the ship <i>Houghton</i> , Captn. William Smith Commander, payable to	himself 3,246-12-0
1 sett dated 18th Nov. 1773 to I. Gamault third officer of the <i>Houghton</i> , Captn. William Smith Commander, payable to	himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated 26th Nov. 1773 to John Diggle chief officer of the ship <i>Northington</i> John Sealy Commander, payable to	himself 3,246-12-0
1 sett dated 26th Nov. 1773 to Thomas Harrison 4th officer of the ship <i>Bridgewater</i> , Captn. Nicholas Skottowe Commander, payable to	himself 1,298-11-3
1 sett dated 26th Nov. 1773 to William Parker chief officer of the ship <i>Bridgewater</i> , Captn. Nichl. Skottowe Commander, payable to	himself 3,246-12-0
1 sett dated 26th Nov. 1773 to John. Haldane 2nd officer of the ship <i>Bridgewater</i> , Captn. Nicholas Skottowe Commander, payable to	himself 2,597- 6-0
1 sett dated 3rd Dec. 1773 to James Dirthy 2nd officer of the ship <i>Houghton</i> Captn. William Smith Commander, payable to	himself 2,597- 6-0
1 sett dated 9th Dec. 1773 to Captain Thomas Poynting Commander of the ship <i>Resolution</i> , payable to.	himself 36,363-10-0
1 sett dated 9th Dec. 1773 to George Saltwell 4th officer of the ship <i>Resolution</i> , Captn. Thomas Poynting Commander, payable to	himself 1,298-11-3
1 sett dated 9th Dec. 1773 to Thomas Maul 5th officer of the ship <i>Resolution</i> , Captn. Thomas Poynting Commander, payable to	himself 649- 5-0
1 sett dated 9th Dec. 1773 to Thomas Abercombie Purser of the ship <i>Resolution</i> , Captn. Thomas Poynting, Commander, payable to	himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated 10th Dec. 1773 to Jermiah Vauz Surgeon of the ship <i>Resolution</i> , Captn. Thomas Poynting Commander, payable to	himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated 8th Dec. 1773, to Captn. Nath. Paul Commander of the ship <i>Harcourt</i> , payable to	himself 36,363-10-0
1 sett dated 8th Dec. 1773 to Thomas Price chief officer of the ship <i>Harcourt</i> , Captn. Nathl. Paul Commander, payable to	himself 3,246-12-0

1 sett dated 8th Dec. 1773 to Frederick Doveton 2nd officer of the ship <i>Harcourt</i> , Captn. Nathl. Paul Commander, payable to	} himself 2,597- 6-0
1 sett dated 8th Dec. 1773, to William Towkins 3rd officer of the ship <i>Harcourt</i> , Captn. Nathl. Paul Commander, payable to	} himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated 8th Dec. 1773, to William Fenwick Purser of the ship <i>Harcourt</i> , Captn. Nath. Paul Commander, payable to	} himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated 8th Dec. 1773, to Joseph Dawkin 4th officer of the ship <i>Harcourt</i> , Captn. Nathl. Paul Commander, payable to.	} himself 1,298-11-3
1 sett dated 8th Dec. 1773 to Charles Napper 5th officer of the ship <i>Harcourt</i> , Captn. Nathl. Paul Commander, payable to	} himself 649- 5-9
1 sett dated 10th Dec. 1773 to William Staines of the ship <i>Houghton</i> Captn. William Smith, Commander of the ship, payable to	} himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated 15th Dec. 1773 to Daniel Griffiths Hoare Commander of the ship <i>British King</i> , payable to	} himself 18,181-13-0
1 sett dated 15th Dec. 1773 to Daniel Griffiths Hoare Commander of the ship <i>British King</i> payable to	} himself 18,181-13-0
1 sett dated 15th Dec. 1773, to Joseph Cotton chief officer of the ship <i>British King</i> Captn. Daniel Griffiths Hoare Commander, payable to	} himself 3,246-12-0
1 sett dated 15th Dec. 1773 to Bruce Rosewell 2nd officer of the ship <i>British King</i> , Captn. Daniel Griffiths Hoare Commander, payable to	} himself 2,597- 6-0
1 sett dated 15 Dec. 1773 to Robt. Young 3rd officer of the ship <i>British King</i> , Captn. Dan. Griffiths Hoare Commander, payable to	} himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated 15th Dec. 1773, to George Sayce 5th officer of the ship <i>British King</i> , Captn. Daniel Griffiths Hoare Commander, payable to	} himself 1,298-11-0
1 sett dated 15th Dec. 1773 to George Taylor Purser of the ship <i>British King</i> , Captn. Dan. Griffiths Hoare Commander, payable to	} himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated 15th Dec. 1773 to Richd. Reis surgeon of the ship <i>British King</i> , Captn. Danl. Griffiths Hoare Commander payable to	} himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated 3rd Decr. 1773 to Alexr. Hamilton surgeon of the ship <i>Bridgewater</i> , Captn. Nickl. Skottowe Commander, payable to	} himself 1,948- 1-0

1 sett dated 20th Dec. 1773 to Alexr. Cavre third officer of the ship <i>Besborough</i> , Captn. Thomas Riddell Commander payable to	}	himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated 20th Dec. 1773 to Alexander Cunningham fourth officer of the ship <i>Besborough</i> , Captn. Thomas Riddell Commander, payable to	}	himself 1,298-11-3
1 sett dated 20th Dec. 1773 to Captn. William Smith, Commander of the ship <i>Houghton</i> payable to	}	himself 36,363-10-0
1 sett dated 20th Dec. 1773 to Richd. Bar- malyne surgeon of the ship <i>Houghton</i> , Captn. Smith Commander, payable to	}	himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated 21st Decr. 1773 to Urban Skinner 4th officer of the ship <i>Houghton</i> Captn. William Smith Commander, payable to	}	himself 1,298-11-3
1 sett dated 28th Decr. 1773, to James Munro 5th officer of the ship <i>Houghton</i> , Captn. William Smith Commander, payable to	}	himself 649- 5-9
Currt. Rupees		2,07,142-13-9

31st. You will perceive a blank in the 2nd paragraph of our letter which ought to have been filled up with the amount of the invoice but this we are unable to do for want of an invoice of some of the Dacca goods which is not yet arrivd from that factory. The invoice so far as completed goes a number in the packet, and the remainder of it shall be transmitted by the *Egmont*.

32nd. Mr. Peter Robert an inhabitant of this settlement has just inform'd us that h has agreed with Captain Smith for a passage for himself and two children to England and requests an order to be received on board which we have accordingly granted him.

Fort William,
30th December 1773.
[Per *Houghton*]

We are with respects
Hon'ble Sirs,
Yours most faithful
humble servants.

LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 1774

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'able Sirs

1. We this day dispatch the *Harcourt* Captain Paul for Madras and think it necessary by this occasion, to acquaint you of our having been obliged to dismiss the ship *British King* from your service on account of the accident which happened to her coming up the river.

2. We informed you by the *Houghton* of our having ordered the *British King* up to Calcutta to be inspected and repaired but on everything being ready for that purpose Capt. Hoare wrote into the Board transmitting the report of a survey which he had caused to be taken on his own and the owners account, which determined to decline having her down here at their risk and protesting against it in consequence.

3. On this protest we on our part thought proper to decline the risk on the Company's account and immediately dismissed the ship from the service as advised above.

4. To prevent as much as possible a disappointment in the remittances which we had proposed this season, from this accident to the *British King* we determined to make a distribution of the greatest part of the cargo originally destined for her on the remaining ships of the season and in consequence have shipped by the *Harcourt* 161 bales of raw silk (the invoice of which is enclosed amounting to current rupees 2,32,578-0-0) which we have desired the Presidency of Fort St. George to regard as surplus tonnage that it may not interfere with the cargo they have prepared for her.

5. The usual charterparty tonnage of saltpetre and redwood has also been laden and the invoice transmitted to Fort St. George.

Fort William,
6th January 1774.
[Pe: *Harcourt*]

We are,
Hon'ble Sirs,
Your most faithful
humble servants.

16

LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1774

Barwell's explanation on Dacca investment—Col. Champion recommended for the post of Commander-in-Chief—balance due from Society of Trade fully paid up.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The duplicate of our letter per the *Harcourt*, which is here enclosed, will inform you of our having been obliged to dismiss the *British King*

from your service and of our determination to encrease, on that account, the cargoes of the remaining ships.

2. For this purpose we detained the *Egmont* untill this date and now dispatch her with a cargo amounting, as per invoice and bill of lading, to 15,67,500 current rupees.

3. By this ship we also send duplicate of our dispatches by the *Houghton* and copies of our proceedings to the close of the year 1773.

4. The annual books and accounts will be sent by the *Resolution* which ship we mean to dispatch as soon as her cargo can be got ready.

5. After closing dispatch by the *Houghton* we granted permission by that ship to Mrs. Fowke, the wife of Mrs. Joseph Fowke residing here, by your license to embark on that ship with a servant for whom she granted a bond of indemnification as usual. We granted also a passage to the 2nd mate of the *Mansfield* with his servant by the same opportunity.

6. In our Proceedings sent, you will observe an application from Major Arthur Ahmuty on the subject of his rank and Major Blairs. Major Elair's letter will also be before you. We saw no reason to alter our determination in favor of Major Blair, but beg leave to submit the affair to your final decision requesting your particular attention to our minutes on Consultations the 5th August and 13th December noted in the margin.

7. Mr. Barwell, the Chief of Dacca, sent in a letter to our Board, which he thought necessary for his justification on account of the bad quality of the investment this season from that factory. Mr. Grueber to whom the charge seemed to apply was called upon to explain his conduct upon the occasion, both Mr. Barwell's and Mr. Grueber's letter and remarks and its references wait on you in this packet because Mr. Barwell made it his request that his might be transmitted for your observation. But having judged it, on our part, necessary for your satisfaction to investigate this subject still further, in order to trace the true cause of the inferior quality of the Dacca investment we have appointed a committee for that purpose as well as to point out any methods that may occur to them for its improvement, and we beg you will suspend your judgement untill we have it in our power to forward you their report and our proceedings in consequence.

8. When Mr. Barwell's letter was presented to us by the Comptroller of the Investment, Mr. Lambert begged leave to enter a minute which he deemed a necessary explanation in his own behalf on the occasion. We directed it to be recorded on the proceedings of the Comptroller to whose department the subject properly belonged, but in justice to that gentleman we also transmit a copy number in the packet, and must further confirm his observation that the period during which he held the Chiefship was in the recess of the investment when neither goods were received into the Dacca warehouse from the *arrivals* nor dispatches made to the Presidency; of course no blame can be imputed to him in regard to the quality of the goods of the provision of either 1772 or 1773.

9. The Comptroller of the Investment has addressed a letter to us on the subject of the ready money purchases received into the warehouse this season, a copy whereof makes a number in the packet to which we beg leave to refer.

10. Colonel Chapman who succeeded to the command of the army on the resignation of Sir Robert Barker has since addressed letter to us with a request for leave to resign your service, accompanied by his reasons for making it, which we have admitted and he in consequence takes passage on the *Egmont*.

11. This gentleman having made an appeal to us for our testimony of his conduct in the service we think it incumbent upon us to declare that in every instance of it which has come before our notice, either as a public body, or as individuals, we have every reason to esteem Col. Chapman a brave and experienced officer and a man of unblemished honor. We may venture to add that he leaves the service with the esteem and affection of all who know him.

12. By the resignation of Colonel Chapman the succession to the command of your army devolves of course on Colonel Alexander Champion an officer distinguished in the course of a long service by a steady exemplary attention to his duty, remarkable activity and successful conduct. His courage and coolness in action have been signally displayed upon many occasions and have frequently gained him the public approbation of his superiors. In addition to these qualities we think it material to mention that he fortunately possesses a sufficient degree of constitutional strength to enable him to undergo the severe effects of the climate to which your army is commonly exposed when called into the field and a strong attachment to the country, which we consider as a kind of security to your service against the frequent changes to which it is liable from the opposite affection and which may prove very injurious to it. He has also had opportunities of acquiring a perfect knowledge of your military service and an acquaintance with the characters of your officers on this establishment. It would not become us to anticipate the choice to which your wisdom may direct you of a person to fill so important a station but in justice to Colonel Champion, whose merits although well known in this country, yet have had few occasions of appearing in that official line, which could bring them forward to your notice, and in duty to your service, we must declare that we esteem him amply qualified for the trust now to be reposed in him. It may at least afford you a satisfaction to know that your administration place a confidence in the gentleman to whose lot this command has fallen, and are inclined to afford him that cordial support, in the exercise of it, which may enable him to prove himself deserving of your sanction for his continuance in it.

13. We have also permitted Capt. George Rooke to resign the service and take his passage on the ship with his family and two servants and have granted him the usual certificates. It is proper to inform your Hon'ble Court that Captain Rooke's reason for desiring to return to

England at this time proceed from no dislike to the service or wish to relinquish it entirely but merely from the necessity of attending to some interesting private concerns in England, which by the disputes of his trustees have been thrown into great confusion, and he, therefore, means to reserve his claim to your favour in being restored to your service whenever these matters are settled, and we doubt not of your allowing it your impartial consideration.

14. Capt. William Roberts, who resigned the service to return to England for the benefit of his health, also takes his passage on board the *Egmont*.

15. Two children of Major Ahmuty's named Fanny and Robert Gregory are likewise permitted to go to England in this ship with two servants for whom the indemnification bond, executed by the Major, makes a number in the packet.

16. The following persons whose time of service being expired we have allowed to proceed as passengers on the *Egmont* on the terms of charterparty, their passage has been paid for here.

Daniel Dillon	.....	Serjeant
Henry Chestham	.....	..do.
John Groom	.....	do.
Francis Peat	.....	do.
Noah Flood	.....	Private
Daniel Leake	.....	do.
John Appleton	.....	do.
Francis Tuffrall	.....	do.
Robert Carr	.....	do.
Jacob Morgan	.....	do.
William Cooke	.....	do.
Joseph Holloway	.....	do.
Richard Fabion	.....	do.

17. The annual of ordnance and ordnance stores being now completed is forwarded in two copies in this ship's packet, the one drawn up alphabetically for the sake of perspicuity the other in the usual form to correspond with the general books, together with these we transmit you the indent for the present year which has been carefully compiled, upon an attentive comparison of the expence of stores in the former years allowing for the remains which are on hand, and we may venture to assure you it does not exceed what will be absolutely requisite for the service of this Presidency.

18. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the balance of one lack and twenty thousand current rupees which was due from the Society of Trade at the date of our last advices has been entirely paid off and they have delivered in their account current with the Company which we transmit a number in the packet.

19. We transmit a number in this packet, the Warehouse-keeper's account of the deficiencies in the delivery of the cargoes from Europe this season, to which are annexed some observations from the different captains serving to disculpate themselves and throw the blame of such deficiencies upon the Import-Warehouse-keeper. We at the same time send a reply accompanied by a letter from the cooper which the Warehouse-keeper thought it incumbent upon him to make to these observations, which appears to us fully to obviate the charge against him and to be satisfactory on the subject. We beg leave to refer you to these papers for a complete information on the subject.

20. A register of the precious stones and bullion, licensed to be sent on the *Egmont* makes a number in this packet.

21. The balance in your General Treasury this day is current rupees 1,31,550-13-9 in the *Dewanry* Treasury current rupees 7,38,175-8-10 and in the cash current rupees 2,41,538-3-3.

22. We have granted the following certificates by this ship.

One sett dated 29th December 1773 to George Duncan Surgeon of the ship <i>Besborough</i> Capt. Thomas Riddell Commander, payable to himself.....	1,948-1-0
One sett dated 28th December 1773 to John Cochrane 2nd officer of the ship <i>Besborough</i> Capt. Thomas Riddell Commander, payable to himself.....	2,597-6-0
One sett dated 29th December 1773 to John Forbes Purser of the ship <i>Besborough</i> Capt. Thomas Riddell Commander, payable to himself.....	1,948-1-0
One sett dated 30th December 1773 to Capt. Charles Mears Commander of the ship <i>Egmont</i> payable to himself	36,363-10-0
One sett dated 30th December 1773 to William Mears first officer of the ship <i>Egmont</i> Capt. Charles Mears Commander, Payable to himself.....	3,246-12-0
One sett dated 30th December 1773 to Peter Churchill second officer of the ship <i>Egmont</i> Capt. Charles Mears Commander, payable to himself	2,597-6-0
One sett dated 30th December 1773, to John Mc Kenzie 3rd officer of the ship <i>Egmont</i> Capt. Charles Mears Commander, payable to himself.....	1,948-1-0
One sett dated 30th December 1773 to John Tomkyns 4th officer of the ship <i>Egmont</i> Capt. Charles Mears Commander, payable to himself.....	1,298-11-3
One sett dated 30th December 1773 to John Allenby 5th officer of the ship <i>Egmont</i> Capt. Charles Mears Commander, payable to himself.....	649-5-9
One sett dated 30th December 1773 to Henry Bradley Surgeon of the ship <i>Egmont</i> Capt. Charles Mears Commander payable to himself.....	1,948-1-0

One sett dated 30th December 1773 to Samuel Gorst
 Purser of the ship *Egmont* Capt. Charles Mears
 Commander, payable to himself.....1,948-1-0
 One sett dated 3rd January 1774 to Thomas Barnes
 second officer of the ship *Resolution* Capt.
 Thomas Poynting Commander, payable to himself.....2,597-6-0
 Current Rupees 50,090-14-0

Fort William,
 17th January 1774.
 [Per *Egmont*]

We are,
 Hon'ble Sirs,
 Your most faithful
 humble servants.
 (Signed)

P.S. Joseph Wood, a disabled serjeant of artillery, who is furnished with the proper certificates for obtaining the pension, has just applied for a passage by this ship which we have granted, but as the captain is gone down the river his passage is left to be paid for in England.

17

LETTER DATED 15TH MARCH 1774

Dutch complain of deficiency of English buoys in the Hooghly—assistance to St. Helena, Fort Marlborough and Balambangan—deterioration in Dacca investment—maps of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa completed by Capt. Rennell—proposal to send convicts to Fort Marlborough—Christie permitted to establish sugar factories and rum distillery at Dinajpur—Auriol and Baugh recommended—great drain of specie from Bengal.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs

1. We have endeavoured by the different dispatches of this season to give you a full and perfect information of the most material transactions as they occurred and it now remains by this ship the *Resolution*, Capt. Thos. Poynting, which conveys to you the annual books and papers of the Presidency to note in the customary order the more particular detail of occurrences of less moment or of such as still remain incomplete in our advices. Duplicate of our last by *Egmont* now attends you.

2. The cargo which the *Resolution* carries home to you amounts, as per invoice, to current rupees 16,72,400.

First, of shipping

3. In the course of this season have arrived and been dispatched as follows—The *Mercury* packet arrived 22nd June dispatched for London directly on the 13th October. *Latham* arrived 29th June dispatched for London directly the 10th Nov. The *Mansfield* arrived 1st July, lost going out of the river. * The *Northington* 30th July, dispatched for Madras 16th of December. The *Houghton* 9th August dispatched for London 31st December. The *Bridgewater* 18th Aug. dispatched for Madras 16th December. The *Harcourt* 16th Oct. Do for Do 16th Dec.¹ The *Egmont* 21st, Oct. Do for London 17th January. The *British King* Oct. turned 21st out of the service the 5th January 1774. The *Resolution* arrived 30th Oct. and is dispatched the 15th of March with these advices.

4. Several of the captains of these vessels presented bills to us for necessaries furnished the recruits in the passage, not having received, as it would appear, the special orders which you were pleased to give to the commanders of the latter ships of the season, but as we had no particular directions about them we refered them to you for payment as usual.

5. Agreeable to annual custom the Master Attendant accompanied by the proper officers from the foreign settlements made a survey of the river and his report appears in our Consultation noted in the margin.

6. Some time after this the Dutch made a representation on the subject of our buoys alledging not only that we did not furnish our just proportion of these but also that such as we did not supply were deficient in their construction and ill placed. On a reference to our Master Attendant we obtained a report from him which we think clearly obviates our replies to the Dutch objections, and in conformity to his scheme we proposed to them that 7 buoys should be kept upon our part and 5 on theirs to which they agreed. The size and situation were left to be settled by our Master Attendant and theirs.

7. The Master Attendant having represented the necessity of having two new pilot sloops to replace those which were become unfit for service, we judged it most expedient to have them built at Bombay as well on account of the cheapness as the superiority of the construction and we wrote to that Presidency accordingly.

8. Complaint having been made of the exorbitant charge which pilots in general made at their own discretion for bringing foreign or country vessels up the river, and this appearing to us not only an unwarrantable extortion but also to carry danger to our own shipping from throwing a temptation in the way of the pilot to leave these whose rates were fixed to take charge of foreign ships on more advantageous terms, we judged it necessary to ascertain the rates for these vessels also which we endeavoured to do upon the footing of justice and equality taking all circumstances into consideration. These rates with other regulations on this head will appear in the Consultation referred to.

9. John Evers the pilot who was dismissed for the loss of the *Albany* having petitioned us setting forth his distress, his former long and approved services, the circumstance of the failure of his eye sight which occasioned his late misfortune and requesting to be put on the superannuated list in the service, on finding the allegations of his petition confirmed by a reference to the Master Attendant, we complied with his request and ordered him to be entered on the superannuated list of pensioners.

10. The *Minerva* and *Amazon* sloops on being recalled from their late service as guard ships, on account of the quarantine and embargo on grain, were ordered to be sold as we found that the further service expected from them could not be adequate to the expence of keeping them up. The *Minerva* was sold accordingly for 25,100 current rupees, and the sale of the *Amazon* will be made in a few days.

11. Capt. Barton, commanding a vessel on the marine establishment of Bombay, drew on us from Batavia bill to the amount of 15,911 rupees acquainting us as a reason that the Dutch government had absolutely refused furnishing him with any supplies unless for ready money, which obliged him, at an exorbitant rate, to purchase opium for a bill on us, of a Bengal trader that he might by selling it again, raise money for repairing his ship, Captain Barton thinks this conduct of the Dutch government arises from a jealousy of our proceeding to the eastward.

12. A voyage having been lately planned by some individuals, in this settlement for opening a trade to Suez in the Red Sea, and they having applied to us for our assistance in obtaining a proper survey of that Sea, we judged that a knowledge of this sort could not fail of being useful to the honourable Company. We, therefore, appointed the *Cuddalore* schooner with a proper person on board to attend their vessel for that purpose, with the express condition that all the extra expences should be borne by the owners the Company being only at the usual charge as if the schooner had remained in port. Soon after the departure of these vessels they were overtaken by a violent gale of wind in the Bay, in which the ship received great damage, and was driven into Coringa on the coast of Coromandell, and the schooner has not been since heard of.

13. In this packet we send an address to your Honourable Court from Mr. Levett, farmer of the arrack distillery, requesting permission to import barrel hoops and staves on the Company's ship on freight, which we beg leave to refer to your consideration.

Secondly, of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another

14. We have lately received, by way of China, an indent from St. Helena of such stores as they shall want next season which being conformable to their former annual demands we shall furnish them as far as we are able by the next ships.

15. We complied with the Fort Marlborough indent for last year in every article excepting those of Madeira wine and rice. The small quantity in our own store, prevented our complying with the first, and as to the rice

we were precluded by the embargo from exporting any although at the same time we took care to secure for them a quantity equal to their demand which had been sent by Mr. Price on private consignment to their port a short time before the embargo was laid on. The amount of the invoices of goods sent was current rupees 11,136-12-9 besides which we supplied the supercargo of their vessel with Arcot rupees 15,000 in cash, and the whole is passed to the debit of that Presidency.

16. The goods indented for by President and Council of Balambangan were sent to the amount of current rupees 5,61,041-13-3 per the *Jason* which we took up to freight at the same rate as the *Phoenix* last year. We have also paid their draft for 1,60,000 Arcot rupees. The whole amount furnished for their settlement from the beginning is current rupees 9,51,756-7-3 as will appear by a particular account sent a number in the packet, which we thought necessary to furnish you with on this occasion.

17. This amount appeared so considerable to us that uncertain of your approbation we judged it necessary to put a limit to our advances for that object untill further orders from you, and wrote to these gentlemen accordingly to desist from drawing upon us and requested to be more circumstantially informed of the success of the present undertakings in order to regulate our future supplies, altho' we shall continue to furnish them with such articles of their annual indent as may be absolutely necessary. We have as yet received no intelligence of their arrival at Balambangan, the last letter we had from them was dated at Passir the 10th of May last.

18. The Fort St. George Presidency lately applied to us for a supply of rice as they apprehended a scarcity on the coast, but upon a report from our custom house of the quantity exported on private account to Madras between the time that the embargo was taken off and the arrival of their letter we judged it unnecessary to send any on the Company's account. Private letters mark the arrival of several cargoes since theirs came away.

19. We also had an application from the same Presidency for a remittance through them either in cash or bills in behalf of that of Bombay. In our letter by the *Houghton* dated 30th December we advised you very fully of the resolution we thought it necessary to adopt concerning the remittances to Bombay and of the reasons which compelled us to it. We, therefore, in conformity to this resolution, acquainted the Presidency of Fort St. George that we meant to comply with the demands of the Presidency of Bombay to a certain extent only to which we authorized them to draw for upon us, it not being in our power to find bills here on Madras and not judging it expedient to send cash.

20. The balance of our engagements to Bombay for last year being now only rupees 2,33,856-2-3 will probably be discharged soon, as they continue to draw upon us from thence and Surat, at the disadvantageous exchange of 94 Surat rupees for 100 *Sonant* rupees which at the same time effectually excludes us from obtaining bills on better terms here.

21. In consequence of your orders contained in the 18th paragraph

of your letter dated 11th February 1773 the box of foreign silver sent out by Mr. John Lediard in the *Prince of Wales* for his nephew has been sold at public auction and the amount, being current rupees 486-7-1, received into your treasury credited as you direct. A copy of the account sales makes a number in the packet.

Thirdly, of investment

22. In our letter of the 6th of January by the *Harcourt* we acquainted you of our having been under the necessity of dismissing the *British King* from your service, and that we had resolved, in consequence to encrease the cargoes of the remaining ships. Those of the *Egmont* and *Resolution* (Particularly the latter) have by this means become very valuable as you will observe by the following abstract amount of the invoices of the several returning ships of this season.

amount of the <i>Latham's</i> cargo	10,06,300
amount of the <i>Houghton's</i> do.	12,47,400
amount of the <i>Harcourt's</i> do. independently of her complete charterparty tonnage from Madras	2,67,445-0-0
amount of the <i>Egmont's</i> cargo	15,67,500-0-0
amount of the <i>Resolution's</i> do	16,72,400-0-0
amount of the whole current rupees	57,61,045-0-0

23. We intended at the beginning of the season to have augmented the surplus tonnage the different ships by the purchase of ready money goods to the amount of ten lacks of rupees. On the accident abovementioned to the *British King* we restricted them to five lacks, but as care has all along been taken to receive them only as our occasion absolutely required, we have, by the timely arrival of goods from the different *warrungs*, confined the amount of ready money, purchases this season to about 3 lacks. With the balance now in our warehouse and the goods expected from the subordinates we shall soon have sufficient for another cargo, which we hope to have the pleasure of consigning to you by an early ship of next season.

24. The reasons for the increase and decrease of the investment this year have been regularly received from every subordinate factory; they are transmitted in the packet by this ship, and the strongest injunctions having been repeated for restoring the quality of the fabricks which have of late years been mostly complained of. We flatter ourselves that our endeavours to this end will be attended with success.

25. But it is with extreme concern that we have occasion to mark particularly upon the deficiency as well as the ill quality of the *Cacca* investment. A letter from Mr. Barwell, the present Chief, upon that subject and one in consequence from Grueber, his predecessor, were forwarded in our last packet; it has since been committed to the consideration of a committee, whose report together with the resolutions passed in consequence are transcribed at large on the proceedings of the Comptroller of the Investment to which we beg leave to refer.

26. Although various reasons are assigned it is difficult to fix with certainty upon the real causes of this great decline of the Dacca investment. we think upon the whole it may be chiefly attributed to the collusive practices and undue influence of the *delolls*, and other intermediate agents employed between the Company and the manufacturer and have resolved therefore to make trial of carrying it on the next season without their intervention, and we confidently rely on the vigilance and assiduity of Mr. Barwell upon this ground work to effect a reform in so material a branch of your commercial affairs.

27. A considerable part of our cargo by this ship is composed of raw silk and silk piece goods; their quality will we hope be found superior to any that has been produced since the famine. Their prices are still high, a circumstance that appears to be unavoidable not in this only but in every article of merchandise which finds its true value upon the existence of a free and open trade, which in consequence of your injunctions to us, we have endeavored to promote by every means in our power and which though it may operate partially to the enhancement of the prices on the goods of your investment, will in that circumstance be fully compensated by the advantages resulting from the success of this measure considered in a general and more extensive view.

28. Although we cannot venture to pronounce upon the thorough establishment of the Italian mode of winding silk under the different superintendants, which has been the constant object of our care and attention. We think it so far introduced as to promise fair for its success in a reasonable course of time.

29. As this manufacture whilst prosecuted at the factory of Cossimbuzar was found to interfere with the investment of silk piece goods, it has been discontinued there and is at present conducted at the factories of Bauleah and Commercolly, and Rungpore. Such as has been received from those places respectively composes a part of our investment by the ships of this season, the quantity is far more considerable than has been heretofore provided and the quality so much improved as we flatter ourselves will answer your expectations. As a farther token that the new mode is likely to spread itself throughout the country it seems already to have found its way into the hands of private adventurers.

30. In our letter dated the 1st of March 1773 we gave advice of a contract concluded with Mr. Prinsep for printing the chintz investment, who has punctually performed his engagements so far as he has been supplied with cloths for that purpose, which has fallen short this year by reason of the deficiency in the quantity of *baftoes* expected from Luckipore. This may be attributed to the lateness of the season in which the contract took place. A statement of it appears on the proceedings on the affairs of the investment dated the 3rd March. The chintz to this time received are, in the opinion of the Export Warehouse-keeper and Examiner, far superior to any that has been provided heretofore. Patterns of the chintz to be provided the ensuing year make a number in the packet, and we hope the timely

arrival of the proper assortments of cloths from the different factories will enable Mr. Prinsep to provide the whole quantity he has in that case engaged to deliver 45,000 pieces.*

31. In the 10th para. of our letter by the *Mansfield* we acquainted you of the measures we had taken to adopt if possible the mode of providing your investment by contract if it could be done upon secure and reasonable terms. We accordingly advertized to receive proposals for the ensuing year. The only ones delivered in were from Cossimbuzar, Patna, Malda and Midnapore. Those from Cossimbuzar were in terms too vague and general to be accepted of without further explanations which we have required. Of the rest those of Patna only have been accepted for the reasons assigned in the proceedings on affairs of the investment noted in the margin. We shall conclude this subject with assuring you that under all circumstances the most effectual measures will be prosecuted for the success of this important branch of your affairs.

Fourthly, of the trade of India country government and transactions with the European powers

32. The Surveyer General having finished a complete set of maps of the several provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orissa with charts of the coasts and directions for their navigation either taken from his own surveys or collected from others of good authority, we transmit them in this packet.

33. Though the neatness and, we believe, the accuracy with which these have been formed will need no comment from us, we cannot transmit them without expressing our satisfaction on the diligence and ability which Capt. Rennel has shewn through the whole course of this service, which we regard as now nearly completed when an end will be put to the expence.

34. The Committee which was appointed for investigating the account and enquiring into the transactions of the Society of Trade, agreeable to your commands, have sent in their proceedings concluded which go a number in the packet as also a copy of the books of the Society for your compleat information.

35. We hope the proceedings of the Committee may prove satisfactory, as they prosecuted their enquiry in the only mode which it appears to us could have been adopted. They were not authorized to take the examinations upon oath, and to have done so, might have been construed an irregularity and affected the Company's cause in case you should think proper hereafter to litigate the matter before a court of justice.

36. The discharge of the temporary loan in January last having thrown considerable sums of money into private hands and they having no hopes of our borrowing again at 8 per cent, we had offers made up of several sums on loans at 5 per cent which, in conformity to our resolution of the 17th June 1773, we determined to accept of.

37. These sums we resolved to apply towards the discharging of the old debt at 8 and in consequence gave public notice that the bonds bearing

date on or before the 31st of December 1769 should cease bearing interest on the last day of April and become payable at the treasury.

38. Our sub Treasurer having soon after reported that he had received loans sufficient for this purpose and that further offers were still made, we again resolved to accept such sums and to discharge likewise the bonds bearing date on or before the 31st December 1770. We accordingly published that they should also become payable and the interest cease on the last day of April next. The amount thus discharging of the old bond debt will be 12,83,675 current rupees.

39. We are uncertain how far these measures may operate to the general conversion of the present debt at 8 per cent interest into bonds bearing 5 per cent but you may depend upon our letting slip no opportunity of effecting this end, as well as of totally extinguishing whatever part of your bond debt the circumstances of our treasury, after the most ample remittances to you, will permit us to discharge, and we think that the plan which we have adopted of accepting all such loans as are voluntarily tendered to us the most likely by an easy progression to effect this purpose without publishing a general resolution of lowering the original and established rate of 8 per cent. our objections to which have been already explained.

40. In the 18th paragraph of our General Letter per *Latham*, we referred to our Consultation of the 5th August 1773 for a view of the accounts we had stated relative to the fund accumulating out of the savings of the Nabob's stipend and Mahomed Reza Cawn's allowance to the time of his dismissal from office. The whole of the savings to that time we appropriated towards discharging the Company's demands upon this fund, in conformity to your orders and there remained a balance still due to them of current rupees 7,80,998-9-4.

41. Upon a fresh application from the claimants of the restitution, we directed the account of the savings to be again made up to the 28th ultimo, from the amount of which having first liquidated the above balance the surplus remaining in the fund we found to be current rupees 2,89,393-5-6; and as it appeared that the addition of the current months saving would admit of our issuing a payment of 25 per cent of the balance of the restitution and of Colonel Munro's claim for his *jaghier* on the 31st instant, we have passed an order accordingly to the Committee of Treasury.

42. We have approved and directed to be carried into execution from the first of next month a plan, proposed to us by the President for the establishment of a general post for the conveyance of letters through the provinces constituted on principles somewhat similar to this post offices in Europe with fixed rates of postage by which this expence which has hitherto proved a heavy and indeterminate charge on the Company, will not only be greatly reduced, but ascertained and well regulated, and we hope may further produce in a course of time a revenue to the public.

43. We have proposed to the Presidency of Fort Marlborough to send them from time to time the felons who are condemned to slavery for life,

either by the country government or within our own district, apprehending that they might be usefully employed there, and confident that such a punishment would make a great impression on the minds of a people strongly attached to their country and their castes, and in many cases supersede the necessity of putting them to death, a punishment more cruel in its nature tho' perhaps less exemplary to them.

44. We have this year allowed the Dutch their usual quantity of salt petre on account of their Company.

45. The Danes have also been furnished with 7,000 maunds according to their request.

Fifthly, of fortifications and buildings

46. The continuation of our proceedings as Board of Inspection since the dispatch of the *Houghton* together with a complete sett from its commencement to the end of the year 1773 are transmitted to you in the book packet. We have already in our letters of 16th August and 10th November last acquainted you of the measures we had taken to confine the expence of your fortifications and other public buildings within the sum prescribed in your letter per *Grafton* of 1,00,000 pounds. To effect this, we have found ourselves under the necessity, after compleating such parts of the new fort as were indispensably necessary, to put an entire stop to the fortifications, as you will have perceived by our proceedings of the 17th November transmitted you by the *Houghton*. We have, however, in consequence of a representation made to us by Lieut. Colonel Lillyman, our Chief Engineer, found it expedient to maintain a number of workmen and artificers to the amount of current rupees 4,559-8 per month to keep the works already constructed in proper repair, but you may be assured that we shall enter into no new expence upon the works without the most evident necessity and we shall have strict regard to the limitation you have so positively enjoined in your commands already referred to.

47. Having also taken under our consideration the state of your building in and about Calcutta, we ordered such as were of the least utility to be advertized for sale and we have the pleasure to acquaint you that the amount of the sale agreeably to the accompanying account, was current rupees 1,19,555. We also limited the expence for the repair of the rent to rupees 1,120 per month by which a very considerable saving has been made, and which is comprehended in the estimate presented to you of the saving in *Buxey's* office.

48. Being of opinion also that a considerable saving might be made by contracting to keep the cantonments of Burrampore and Dinajpore in repair for a certain annual sum, which we had experienced to incur a very heavy and continual expence under the Barrack Master, we have accordingly published an advertisement that proposals will be received for this purpose, the contract to commence the first of June next and to continue for the term of 5 years, and we have in the interim forbid any the most trifling repairs to be made without our express sanction.

49. An advertisement was published this year as usual for proposals for the brick contract, but after our resolution to suspend the works we deemed it unnecessary to conclude it. We accepted, however, the most reasonable proposals and engaged the person who offered them to enter on the execution of the ground possessed by the late contractor to make bricks upon his private account as he further promised to instruct his workmen in the new method of making them on tables recommended by the Chief Engineer.

50. In the month of June last Mahomed Reza Cawn made an offer to us of his large house next to the Government House for the use of the Company at the price of one lack of rupees, representing that the demands he had for money to defray his necessary expences induced him to wish to part with it altho' at a price very much below its real value. Notwithstanding that this offer at another time might have been thought advantageous to the Company yet in the present circumstances, when we wish to observe the utmost oeconomy we did not think ourselves warranted to lay out so large a sum on dead stock without your express permission, but as we were then renters of another house at the rate of 1,000 rupees per month for the accommodation of the Secretary's and other public offices, we offered to hire Mahomed Reza Cawn's house at the same rate which he agreed to. The President has since chosen it for his own residence giving up the Government House for a council chamber and the offices of the Secretary, Select Committee, Accomptant, Persian Translator and Court of Appeals all which are accommodated in a much superior manner, both as to room and convenience, to what they were either in the former hired house or in the old Council House, which last we quitted in good time as it has since actually fallen down. We shall expect your orders as to the purchase of Mohamed Reza Cawn's house if it appears to you advisable.

51. It is with concern that we are obliged to acquaint you that the buildings which were erected at Rungpore and Cossimbuzar for the business of the filature silk have proved very insufficient, a part of the former having actually fallen down and the latter having been declared on repeated surveys (which we had taken with the view of converting it into an hospital for the troops at Burrampore) totally unfit for any service whatever as it would be impossible to alter or repair it at a less expence than it would cost to built it anew. We have called on Messrs Hurst and Phipps, under whose directions those buildings were executed to answer for their conduct on this occasion. The former has returned an answer, which we refer to your consideration. It is recorded on our proceedings of the 3rd instant but we apprehend a mistake is made when he uses the word "*Terrass*" and that it should be "*Foundation*". We cannot doubt that Mr. Hurst superintended the execution of this work to the utmost extent of his skill and capacity, and as the materials are acknowledged to have been good it is only to be lamented that a person versed in building was not appointed for this service. Mr. Phipps's answer has not yet been received but there is a circumstance already within our knowledge which we think in justice to Mr. Phipps should

be noticed in this place where the first mention of this subject will come under your observation. Mr. Phipps has imputed the fall of the building in his first report of the disaster, to the nature of the soil of Rungpore which he declares to be loose and sandy and unfit for laying foundations, and so far is the truth of this remark corroborated that a great part of a private building belonging to Mr. Purling within a mile of the filature fell down about the same time. We shall lay the state of this matter more fully before you when we receive Mr. Phipps's answer.

52. Being disappointed in the intention of converting the Cossimbuzar filature into an hospital it became indispensably necessary to construct some buildings, for that purpose, as near half of your European troops are now cantoned at Berhampore and proposals having been made to Colonel Grant for erecting a bungalow, sufficiently capacious for this service, estimated to last 5 years at the original expence of 8,000 rupees with 1,000 rupees for out houses and 1,000 rupees annum for keeping the whole in repair. We immediately authorized him to conclude a contract with the person who had made him these proposals, esteeming them extremely reasonable and advantageous for the Company.

Sixthly and seventhly, of covenanted servants & accounts

53. The covenants which you sent out to be executed here being duly signed were in course returned to you, and that of Mr. Mathew Dawson and M.P. Cole are now sent in this packet. We beg leave here to observe to you that no covenants have been sent to us for Messrs King, Atkinson and Evans who were in Bengal at the time you were pleased to include them in your appointment upon the list of writers of last season.

54. Mr. James Lister died before the arrival of your appointment in his favour, and we learn by private letters from Fort Marlborough that Mr. John Bazett who was nominated a writer in the list for 1772 died at that place in his way to Bengal, all the rest of your covenanted servants of whose departure we are advised in your letters of this year are safely arrived excepting Mr. Charles Grant who, we learn took passage by the *Versittart* to Bombay.

55. Agreeable to your orders of the 7th April last for a complete list of the covenanted servants under Council with an account of the allowances and all the known emoluments of each, we transmit you one by this packet which has been compiled from the accounts thereof received from the subordinate factories and the several offices at the Presidency.

56. The following gentlemen have been appointed assistant surgeons on this establishment after passing the regular examination of chief surgeons of the settlement at the several periods noted in the margin viz;

Messrs.	Alexr. Hamilton
6th Dec. 1773	Charles Allen
10th Jan. 1774	Bussick Harwood
18th Feb. 1774	and Phillips.

57. We have hitherto been extremely cautious in troubling you with any recommendations for people to be appointed to the civil service but

cannot avoid mentioning to you on the present occasion Mr. Burrish Crisp, the son of a very deserving man, obliged by misfortunes to settle with your license in this country. He is a youth of about 15 and educated to accounts, of a very promising genius and has already made so remarkable a progress in learning the Persian, Bengal and Moors languages and acquiring a knowledge of the business and customs of the country that we really think he will be a credit to the Hon'ble Company's employ and, therefore, take the liberty to recommend him. We herewith send you a specimen of his writing in Persian.

58. We communicated to Messrs. Wiss and Robinson the paragraph of your letter which regarded them and their replies appear in the Consultations noted in the margin. We beg leave to recommend these
 24th Jan. 1774 addresses to your consideration as we deem both Mr.
 25th Nov. 1773 Robinson and Mr. Wiss zealous and faithful servants and justly meriting any indulgence you can with propriety grant them.

59. Mr. James Christie who was employed in the business of collecting fir timbers by your special appointment, returned lately to the Presidency with a quantity which he had cut in the Moorung country. The timbers appeared, on examination, to be good and servicable, as did also the samples which he produced of tar, pitch and turpentine, but finding as in the case of Mr. Peacock that they were procured at too great an expence to answer for the service of the Company we declined employing Mr. Christie any longer in this business, and ordered his bill of expences for three years to be discharged, amounting to current rupees 21,375-7-2 which we looked upon as extremely moderate. For his salary, we agreed to refer to you acquainting him that Mr. Peacock was under the same reference and that doubtless they would be both settled according to the merits of the service performed.

60. Mr. Christie at this time applied to us for a grant of some waste lands in the province of Dinagapore where he proposed to establish a sugar work and a rum distillery after the West India method, and as we were convinced that such a scheme would not fail of being of great use in introducing a new species of manufacture into the country and improving the culture of the sugarcane we consented to his request under such conditions as we thought necessary for rendering him more immediately, dependent on the Company and accountable to us for his conduct. We have the more readily granted this indulgence to Mr. Christie as he had demeaned himself during his residence in the country with great moderation and propriety and avoided all disputes with the native inhabitants.

61. Neither Mr. Goldar nor the attornys of Mr. Bolts have hitherto made an application in consequence of your later orders, when they do we shall in compliance with them, afford every proper assistance in our power for the recovery of their debts.

62. Since our last advices the Commissary General, who has long laboured under great sickness, has gone to Madras with permission for the recovery of his health, sometime before departure we settled the arrange-

ment of his office. At the same time he addressed us representing that as besides the supplies which were furnished by contract there were several contingencies and incidental supplies which by their nature could not be provided by that mode but must be entrusted to the charge of some person to provide them as the exigency arises; that it was intended by the Court of Directors that he should be entrusted with this business and offered to furnish such supplies at 15 per cent cheaper than had been at an average for some years past. In deliberating on this proposal it occurred to us that in fact these supplies must by the nature of them be almost entirely exempted from control in the purchase as they can only be had at the price of the day and of the place where they are provided; that, therefore, an uncommon degree of trust must be reposed in the person who is charged with this business, and the Commissary General from the confidential nature of his appointment appearing the most fit for such a trust, and he absolutely undertaking to furnish the supplies considerably cheaper than heretofore, we come to the resolution that all the contingent supplies not provided by contract should be furnished by the Commissary General.

63. Lieut. Colonel Leslie, Quarter Master General, has been ordered to join the brigade now in the field with the Vizier and we have appointed him the ordinary allowance of his station on actual service.

64. The Commander-in-Chief having represented to us the necessity of having an Adjutant General for the army, especially when the troops were in actual service in the field, we concurred with him in the propriety of such an appointment, and considering it as an office of great trust requiring both experience and capacity we deemed it most fit that it should be executed by a field officer. We accordingly appointed Major Hannay, an officer of approved merit and abilities to hold this office with the same pay and allowances as you had thought proper to prescribe for the Quarter Master General.

65. The President informed the Board that Lieutt. Col. Galliez had applied to him to countersign his bill for *batta* during the time he commanded at Allahabad from 1st of October 1769 to 31st July 1772, but as it was of so old standing he did not chuse to countersign it without the authority of the Board. Upon his reference to us finding the claim to be just and that the payment had only been deferred on account of the deficiency of the funds at that time in the Paymaster's hands we ordered it to be paid and he received it accordingly.

66. Mr. William Blaine, who was Paymaster to the garrison at Allahabad in July 1772, addressed us paying relief in a case where he had suffered a loss of 4,500 rupees by the failure of a *shroff* whose draft he had taken at Fyzabad for 15,000 rupees by the directions of his commanding officer to pay a battalion of *sepoys* then detached from the garrison to join the brigade in the Vizier's country which was at that time considerably in arrears. As we found this representation to be just, and looked upon it as a hard case that he should suffer and probably be ruined by a transaction in which he evidently consulted the best for the public service, had himself

no interest and acted by orders from his superiors, we agreed to indemnify him and this balance was paid to him accordingly.

67. On a recommendation from General Sir Robert Barker of the services of Capt. Burrington who had acted with him as Adjutant General and had performed that duty with great attention and assiduity for the space of 3 years without any regular appointment or allowance we thought fit to grant 5,000 rupees in consideration of his services, a sum greatly inferior to what he would have been entitled to by a fixed appointment.

68. Colonel Champion in September last presented a bill to us for the reimbursement of the sum of rupees 6,000 which he had advanced in presents to the Nabob of Furrackabad during the time that he commanded the brigade in those parts. It appears that at this time the Vizier thought it an essential point to secure that Nabob to our interest and prevent his allying himself with the Maharattas, and that he accordingly pressed Colonel Champion to make him these presents. In such circumstances we thought it would have been a great hardship to have allowed Colonel Champion to suffer from an exertion in behalf of the Company without any prospect of advantage to himself. We therefore ordered the payment of his bill.

69. On the occasion of an address from Lieut. Colonel Goddard we had before us the case of the whole supernumerary field officers who were limited to captain's pay and *batta*, by your orders of the 10th April 1771, and it appearing to us that it could not be the intention of these orders to extend to the exclusion of these gentlemen from superior pay and allowances beyond the number of field officers who were upon the list at the time you restored them to their rank and the restriction commenced, because if it were to extend to such field officers as were or might be appointed thereafter it might forever exclude these gentlemen from the benefits of their station, by the establishment of field officers being continually completed with posterior appointments. We, therefore, resolved that such supernumerary officers by succession who composed the establishment at the time their appointments were made or confirmed, should enjoy their full allowances of their stations without regard to posterior supernumerary appointments, whether of superior or inferior rank. According to this rule we determined that Lieutenant Colonel Wilding who by succession is come to be the 6th lieutenant colonel on the establishment of the brigades (Lieutenant Colonel Leslie acting as Quarter Master General by your appointment and not doing duty with any particular brigade) should enjoy the pay and *batta* of his rank, and Lieutenant Colonel Goddard who is come within the number of majors, the pay and *batta* of that station.

70. On an application from Lieutenant Colonel Tottingham representing the hardship he suffered from having his commission money from the revenue stopt (agreeable to our resolution) while the majors were permitted to draw theirs we ordered the shares of the two junior majors to remain also in deposit for your final orders (in the same manner as we formerly determined in the case of the shares of the lieutenant colonels) to answer the claims

of Lieutenant Colonels Upton and Tottingham should you determine in that manner.

71. Mr. Barwell, the Chief of Dacca, in the month of January last having by the permission of the President, repaired to Calcutta for the benefit of his health applied on his arrival to take his seat at the Board. This point being debated his application was rejected and it was determined that no member holding a distinct office out of the Presidency and occasionally repairing thither on leave of absence ought to be admitted to a seat and deliberative voice at the Board until we should be furnished with your commands on this point.

72. Lieutt. Broadbent, who was dismissed the service by sentence of a court martial for riotous and improper behaviour, was on an acknowledgement of his error, and a recommendation from the Genl. Sir Robert Barker restored to the service.

73. Captain Delafield whose case was adjudged by the Board of Field Officers, and is before you in the general reference on that occasion, has thought proper to send in a memorial to your Hon'ble Court. It is sent a number in this packet and we have chosen to accompany it with the minute which convey our sentiments on this claim.

74. Coll. Pearse has also addressed you on the subject of his rank, his address goes a number in the packet.

75. Capt. Moses Crawford, who was restored by judgement of the Board of Field Officers to what they deemed to be his original rank, having applied to us for the difference of pay and *batta* which he would have received if he had stood as Capt. instead of Lieutt. during the time he was entitled to that commission, we declined complying with his request, but beg leave to refer the case to your consideration.

76. Lieutenant-Fireworker Robert Hamilton whose case is somewhat similar having been, by some mistake in the military list left out in the promotion of cadets to the rank of officers and who did the duty of Lieutenant-Fireworker in the field till the mistake was rectified also claims the difference of his pay and *batta* for the intermediate time and we refer it with the above to your decision. His bill recorded on Consultation amounts to rupees 1,037-4.

77. Lieutt. Thomas Gardiner, whose case on a report from the Board of Field Officers was very particularly considered by us last year, being dissatisfied with our decision has chosen to address your Hon'ble Court directly and we thought it necessary to repeat our former arguments upon the case in a minute which is entered with his memorial, and both go numbers in this packet.

78. In consequence of your orders restoring Mr. Francis Robertson to the service, with the rank of youngest lieutenant on this establishment, he has sent in an address to us expressing his thankfulness for the indulgence shewn him and representing some further consequences in his case which he apprehends may not hitherto have come to your knowledge. We beg leave to refer it to your favorable consideration and to repeat the mention we

have already made of Mr. Robertson as a man of good character and mild disposition and as remaining one of the few exceptions from the general amnesty you have passed on the conduct of the officers concerned in the association of 1766.

79. We have repeatedly in our former advices expressed our intention, and it has been the continual object of our earnest wishes to enter upon a complete reform of the military expences, which in spite of all our vigilance, have continued a vast drain on your treasury; the regulations which have been hitherto applied having served only to divest the excesses into other channels without effecting any diminution of them. It is with uncommon pleasure we now inform you that we have with much labor, and almost daily meetings held for this purpose since the departure of the last dispatch, completed this work on a plan which we hope
7th March you will find entirely consonant to the ideas entertained by your Military Committee, and to the commands expressed in your Genl. Letters, and which we promise ourselves will confine this important branch of your disbursements within the bounds which we have prescribed for it. It will require time to carry it into complete execution; but the greater part we conceive to be within our immediate reaches and we venture to promise that so far as the effect of these regulations depends upon us, your expectations from them shall be fully answer'd.

80. We are now forming and shall transmit a number in the packet an estimate of the savings which we hope to effect in the military charges by a comparison between those incurred on the former establishment and the computed Expence of the present including all the reductions and regulations which have taken place since the 23rd. of April 1772.

81. We do not mean this as an accurate state of the difference but the most perfect which from the narrow space of time within which we are circumscribed, and the undefined nature of many of the arrangements, we can give the savings which will be made by the continuance of the brigades at the stations, the interdiction of temporary buildings, the depending contract for repairing the cantonments, the orders concerning contingencies, and the strict prohibition of all charges not allowed by the express regulations, being all incapable of an applications to any exact rule of calculation. But we hope you will find it sufficiently clear to point out the nature, and general scope of these improvements, leaving it to time and experience to realize them.

82. The regulations we have lately formed are entered complete on our Consultation of the 7th of March, and the tendency of the whole is so exceedingly obvious, that we submit them to your inspection without accompanying them with any comments or reasoning in this place.

83. We are constrained to request in the most earnest manner that no more cadets may be sent out to us until those which are now in the service shall be provided for with commissions. There are at this time upon the establishment 70 not yet promoted of whom 4 are acting Ensigns and 73 super-numerary officers in consequence of our late regulations, unless time is allowed for the supernumerary officers and cadets to supply vacancies till

the number of the whole is reduced to the compliment of new establishment. Our hope of effecting a saving by the reuniting the two European battalions of each brigade into one will be entirely frustrated and your military establishment will still be loaded with a heavy and useless expence. We cannot exemplify this in a clear and more convincing manner than by noting for your observation the expence of the present officers and cadets of your army compared with what it will be when they reduced to the number of the new establishment it will stand as follows—

Old establishment

Commission'd officers 522 pay, <i>batta</i> and allowances	
within the provinces p. annum rupees	12,83,904
70 cadets do. do.	42,000
	13,25,904

New establishment

Commission'd officers 449 pay, <i>batta</i> and allowances rupees	11,01,411
Difference p. annum	2,20,353

84. We cannot avoid considering this subject in a different light not less meriting your attention, as it may respect the characters and morals of your officers. When the number of cadets is so great as to prevent their rising in the regular course of the service to rank of officers' till after a great length of time the habits which they are too apt to contract in this state of indigence, became often so rooted as to impress the most lasting effects on their minds, and render them very unfit to exert the principles which form the basis of the military character which must prove of course of the most pernicious tendency to your service.

85. You will perceive by the general return of our army that our European force including artillery and serjeants attach'd to the sepoys is 1307 men short of our establishment. We beg leave to submit to your consideration how far the safety of your settlement requires that we should be furnished with a sufficient number of recruits to keep our establishment complete.

86. In consequence of our resolution and plan for reducing the expence of the boat establishment of which you were advised by the *Latham* we published advertizements inviting proposals for the contract and received several from different persons, those of Mr. James Fraser being by far the lowest we accepted them. This contract will commence from the 1st. of September next, but as we have before informed 21st Oct. you a considerable reduction in the old establishment has already taken place we flatter ourselves that this new plan will effectually answer every purpose of the service and a considerable saving must accrue in the expence.

87. In conformity to what we mentioned in our letters by the ships *Mansfield* and *Latham*, we have now the honor to present to you a comparative estimate of the savings effected at the subordinate factories, and of

such of the offices as have been regulated at the Presidency. We are sorry to inform you that the offices of the Military Storekeeper, Naval Storekeeper and Master Attendant are not yet completed, altho' a great part of the expences of the former will be virtually abridged by the late military regulations. To assist our proceedings in arranging the two latter, our Master Attendant has prepared a plan founded on such principles as appear best calculated for reducing the heavy charges of the Marine, and we hope when we take this plan into consideration which shall be done immediately after the dispatch of this ship to regulate the office to your entire satisfaction.

Bd. of Inspection
24th Feb.

88. We informed you in our letter per *Latham* of the office of Auditor which we had established in this department to inspect and pass the different accounts conformably to the fixed arrangements, which office was held in weekly succession by the different members of your Administration. But notwithstanding this establishment for checking the monthly accounts, we found the regulation was in some measure rendered ineffectual by the heads of some of the offices at the Presidency neglecting to deliver in their accounts regularly; we, therefore, laid down the most positive injunctions to deliver in their accounts by the 15th of the succeeding month and at the same time resolved that those of the Military Storekeeper, Storekeeper of the Works, Paymaster of the Works, Master Attendant, Naval Storekeeper and *Buxey* instead of being audited by the members of the Board in weekly rotation, should be given in charge to a single Member with the title of Comptroller of the Offices at the Presidency. His duty is to report to the Board whenever the accounts of any office are not delivered in at the stated period, to audit the accounts, and accompany them with remarks for the inspection of the Board, and to suspend by his own authority such charges as he shall judge improper until he shall have represented them to the Board and received their orders thereon, and we have the greatest reason to hope from this appointment of seeing our established regulations effectually enforced.

20th Jany.

89. As by this appointment the direction of the offices is put under the control of a member of your Administration, the business of the Military Committee became in effect annulled. We came to the resolution of abolishing it, as you will find recorded on our proceedings of the 11th February. We thought it, however, necessary to continue the establishment of the Committee of Works for the purpose of consulting from time to time with the Chief Engineer for regulating the business of the fortifications.

90. As it is your wish to be made acquainted with the merits of such of your servants as have peculiarly recommended themselves by their talents and assiduity we now recommend Mr. J.P. Auriol, Assist. Secretary, to your favourable notice; on a former occasion we expressed the sense we

Progs. of the
Bd. of Revenue
4th June, 73

entertained of Mr. A's merits and diligence in consequence of our refusing to part with his services on an application from the Collector of Dinagepore soliciting his appointment to that place, and the committee for the revival of

the General Letters also last year recorded on their proceedings and reported to the Board the sense they had of his services as clerk to them, and we can with justice afford him the same testimony with respect to his assistance in the business of this Department where the appointment, of a first secretary precluding him from rising higher makes it more incumbent on us to recommend him in this manner.

91. We have also received so much material and effectual assistance from Mr. Baugh as clerk to the Board of Inspection who at the same time attended to a large department of business in the Revenue Department that we think it incumbent upon us to point him out as a servant well deserving your attention and encouragement.

92. In obedience to your command of the 25th March 1772 the Military Paymaster General was called upon for an explanation of Captain Spellman's account, the only information he has been able to give us having been received since the close of our proceedings is transmitted a number in the packet as are also the books of that office closed to the 30th April last in the book packet, but the books containing the copies of the vouchers are so voluminous that they have not yet been completed.

93. We now transmit you the general abstracts of our collections and expences from August 1772 to July 1773. You will observe that the total amount of the latter is current rupees 1,62,49,666-7-8 but in this sum are included the extra expences of our troops out of the province which have been repaid by the Vizier. These being deducted the state of our expences will then be as follows :

Civil expences as per abstract C.Rs.	46,60,700-7-1
Military expences as per abstract	1,15,88,966-0-7
Deduct extra expences paid by the Vizier	10,21,696-13-10
	----- 1,05,67,269-2-9

Total current rupees	1,52,27,969-9 10

94. We flatter ourselves that the savings will be found in future to be very considerable both in Civil and Military Departments. To shew them in the clearest light we send the following papers numbers in the packet. Comparative estimate of civil expences as incurred from May 1772 to April 1773 and as fixed by the present establishment

Military establishment in 1772

Do.....at present

Comparative estimate of military expences as incurred from August 1772 to July 1773 and as fixed by the present establishment.

You will perceive that the savings are reckoned at ct. rupees 22,95,717-10-11 in the Civil Department and at ct. rupees 24,43,119-12-0 in the Military Department, and you may depend upon our attention strictly to enforce the regulations we have established.

Eighthly, of Charter

95. In the month of July last Mohun Pursaud and Gungabissen two

of the creditors of Mr. Mignel Vancolster applied to us for the delivery of the Company's bonds payable to him which as attornies to
 8th July Vancolster lay in our hands and were consigned to the custody of Mr. Baber our former Secretary but we refused to deliver them not thinking ourselves sufficiently authorized. Upon this they applied to the Mayor's Court and obtained a sequestration of these bonds and they now be in that Court for the benefit of the creditors.

96. Within the period limited by Charter the Mayor's Court returned to us Messrs. Samuel Montaigut and Robt. Sanderson for our election of one to serve as Mayor for the present year when the former was duly chosen and sworn into that office accordingly.

97. In the course of this season we have made occasionally the following appointments of Aldermen in that Court to fill up the vacancies that have happened there, vizt.

Messrs. James Baillie
 John Fenwick
 Nathl. Brassey Halhed
 David Vanderhyden

98. The proceedings of this Court being sent in agreeable to annual custom are now transmitted in the book packet.

99. By the proceedings of a court martial lately held at Barrampore you will perceive that four soldiers named Thomas Sloper, Charles Hardgrove, Michael Williams and Thomas Ferry were condemned to be hanged for the murder of a native inhabitant near that place, a severe but necessary example.

100. In the month of July last a court martial held at the Presidency passed sentence of death on Joseph Ward and William Warner, two soldiers, for desertion, as we found it necessary at that time to make some example to prevent the desertion of the troops as well up the country as at the Presidency. We approved of the sentence of the court which was accordingly executed on William Warner, but we thought fit to pardon the other.

Supplement

101. According to your directions we called on the Chief Surgeon for a return of the sick, received into, dismissed from, or dead in the different hospitals in the settlement. In the packet you have such a return for the Presidency with an address from Mr. Campbell explaining the reasons that made it impossible to obtain those of the other hospitals for this year. He engages to procure them regularly for the next.

102. By the registers of jewells and bullion sent by the ships of this season you will perceive the great drain of the latter which this country has sustained during the course of the year through that channel alone, and we have reason to think that a further exporation to no inconsiderable amount has been made to Madras, Bombay, China &ca.

103. We were not unattentive to your commands for discouraging all

exportation of bullion, but you must be sensible how ineffectual this must prove against the necessities or even the advantages of trade which call for it. Besides all other means of remittance to Europe being now cut off, and the tax of 5 per cent with the public being looked upon rather as giving a sanction than a discouragement to the exportation of bullion to England it is not surprising that this mode has been so much followed of late. As to the consequences of this excessive drain of specie they are too obvious to require a discussion; we only think it our duty to mark the fact for your observation.

104. By this ship we send sample of the different coinage of our mint in 10 pieces of each species sealed up under the President's seal in the manner you direct.

105. Mr. Reed one of the Member of your Council at this Presidency having long labour'd under a severe and lingering illness, is at last reduced to the necessity of embarking for Europe as the only hopes left him of recovering his health. He accordingly takes passage on this ship the *Resolution* but reserves to himself the claim of returning to Bengal in your service in conformity to the regulation you have been pleased to establish in such cases in the 57 para of your commands dated 25th March 1772 P. Grafton. We transmit copies of Mr. Reed's letter and certificate numbers in the packet.

106. Lieutt. Robert Hesketh being also obliged to proceed to Europe by the advice of the surgeons for the benefit of his health is granted a passage in this ship, as he wishes to return to his duty in the service as soon as that can be reestablished. He has signified his intention to make an application to you on his arrival in England for this purpose.

107. The Revd. Mr. Yate in compliance with your orders now embarks on the *Resolution* for England. We have recd. a petition signed by a considerable part of the gentlemen inhabitants of Bengal in favor of Mr. Yate, setting forth his amiable character and exemplary conduct as a clergyman and praying our intercession in his favor for his return to Bengal to succeed to the first vacancy on this establishment but as we cannot presume to urge anything further in recommendation of Mr. Yates or in anticipation of any resolution which you may be pleased to form in respect to his future pretensions, we can only declare that we think it a justice due to that gentleman and particularly incumbent upon us from the above application to declare our concurrence in the testimony which is therein given of the character he has ever borne during his residence in Bengal.

108. Mr. James Ellis late your Chief Surgeon upon this establishment but who resigned about a twelve months ago now takes his passage to return to Europe by this ship with two European servants.

109. Captn. Gabriel Harper having obtained our permission to resign the Hon'ble Company's service we have given him the usual certificates and granted him a passage for himself and a European and native servant.

The latter he represents is to proceed no further than St. Helena; however,
 3rd March we have taken a bond of indemnification for him which
 is sent a number in the packet.

110. Mr. John Brasier and Mr. Edmund Kelly are also passen-
 3rd March gers on board this ship.

111. We have permitted the Hon'ble Charles Stewart to engage a pass-
 age in the *Resolution* for Mary Dundass and James Dumbard two infants
 committed to his care, with a nurse to attend them, for whom he has
 executed the usual indemnification bond which goes a number in the packet.

112. Mr. John Hettson an invalided pilot having requested our
 3rd March permission to return to Europe on the terms of charter
 party we have given him an order for the same to Captn.
 Poynting. He takes with him a native servant for whom his bond of
 indemnification makes a number in the packet.

113. We have also ordered the following soldiers whose term of service
 3rd March is expired to be received as charterparty passengers board
 the *Resolution* vizt.

Robert Anderson	..	..	Artillery Serjeant
Charles Wagstaff	..	..	Corporal
Edward Ford	..	..	Gunner
Joseph Stafford	..	..	Matross
Joseph Railton	..	..	-do-
Thomas Woodfind	..	..	Serjt. of Infantry
William Palmer	..	..	-do-
Abraham Coleman	..	..	Corporal
Danl. Leake	..	..	Private
Thomas Gill	..	..	-do-
John Halbert	..	..	-do-
John May	..	..	-do-
John Hammond	..	..	-do-
William Bendall	..	..	-do-
Thomas Collet	..	..	-do-
Robert Coleman	..	..	-do-
William Nelson	..	..	-do-
John Beagle	..	..	-do-
John Gazle	..	..	-do-
James Downey	..	..	-do-
Thos. Wilcox	..	..	-do-

and Elizth. Woodfind wife of John Woodfind Serjeant Major.

114. We are sorry to inform you of an account we have just received
 from the commander of the *Union* a country vessel of the loss of the *Royal*
Captain Captn. Burrowes one of our ships homeward bound from China
 on a rock at the island of Paragoë. The Captn. and almost all the crew
 were taken up by the *Union* and landed at Malacca. An extract from the
 journal kept on board this vessel as far as relates to this affair is sent a
 number in the packet.

115. Since completing the invoice of the cargo of this ship a dispatch of raw silk has been received from Cossimbuzar wherein there is a parcel of filature silk wound under the direction of Mr. Pickering Robinson at Bauleah of a superior assortment which he is particularly desirous of having consigned to Europe this season. It is valued in a separate invoice with charges at currt. rups. 48,500 and encreases the *Resolution's* cargo to currt. rs. 17,20,900.

116. Since the close of our proceedings for this packet Mr. Grueber having been permitted to inspect the report of the Dacca enquiry into the states of the investment with Mr. Barwell's reply on the subject of his former, address as thought it incumbent on him to address us a new, that it may come with the other proceedings before you for consideration. We. therefore, transmit it a number in a packet, and can only refer to those proceedings, and the 26th Para of this letter, for our sentiments on the subject.

117. Having judged it necessary that a sett of musters selected by Mr. Grueber the late Chief of Dacca, and Mr. Guinand the Examiner, for prizing the goods of the present year's investment at that factory should be sent on this ship the *Resolution* for your inspection in consequence of the report made to us by the committee of enquiry of which mention is made in the 25th Para of this letter. They have been received and are accordingly forwarded under following marks D. musters nos. 1 & 2, accompanied with a separate invoice of their value.

118. Our Secretary Mr. Stewart, has lately presented a memorial to us, setting forth the disadvantages which he labours under on account of the reduced state of his emoluments. The facts which he alludes to we believe to be stated with strict justice. The credit which he gives the present administration for the disappointment he complains of in a manner precludes us from saying more in his behalf than to express our with that his remonstrance may be judged deserving of your favorable attention. This letter is sent a number in the packet.

119. The balance in your General Treasury this day is current rupees 8,30,806-11-3. In the *Dewanny* Treasury sicca rupees 10,63,081-9-4 and in the cash current rupees 2,05,799-2-3.

120. We have granted by this ship the following setts of certificates.

To whom granted		To whom payable
1 sett dated 15th February 1774 to Jno. Biddlecome, chief officer of the <i>Resolution</i>	himself	3,246-12
1 sett dated 15th February 1774 to Thos. Stephenson, third officer of the <i>Resolution</i>	himself	1,948-1
	Current Rupees	5,194-13

Fort William,
the 15th of March 1774.

We are with respect
Hon'ble Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants.

LETTER DATED 26 MARCH 1774

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

Since the dispatch of our advices, by this ship the *Resolution* we have received applications for two bulses of diamonds to be licensed by her what had not arrived in town at the time the packet was closed. We have, therefore, permitted them to be shipped on board and have the honour to enclose a register of them for your information.

Fort William,
the 26th March 1774.
[Per *Resolution*]

We are with respect
Hon'ble Sirs,
Your most faithfull
humble servants.

LETTER DATED 25 APRIL 1774

French protest against Barwell's conduct towards the French Chief at Dacca.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs

1. Your last ship from this port the *Resolution* was left by her pilot in deep water on the 4th instant with a moderate wind and fair weather. Her cargo amounted to 17,20,000 Rs.

2. Since that dispatch we have received a formal protest from Mr. Chevalier, Commandant for the French Government at Chandernagore, against our proceedings in the complaint of Mr. Des Granges against Mr. Barwell and a declaration that he had ordered the French factory at Dacca to be evacuated, because (as he affirmed) they could no longer remain with honor or safety. Our Chief and Council have received a similar protest from the French Resident at Dacca but with the addition that they should remain at the factory in a private capacity, on the pretence that the season of the year would not allow of their abandoning it directly.

3. After a measure of this kind, so decided, and in appearance so much tending to a national quarell, we thought it incumbent on us to give you this early advice, that you might be prepared for the remonstrance

which they will not fail to make on the occasion accompanied, we do not doubt, with a misrepresentation of our conduct.

4. Whatever may be their avowed motive for this step we have reason to believe from private informations that the same dispatches which conveyed the orders for the new modelling of their government here, also directed the recall of all the old factories of their Company before this affair took place, and we think such orders probable because these factories have long continued a heavy charge without yielding any visible advantage either to the Company or the nation. You will be better informed whether such orders were given or not, but we judged it proper to intimate our belief because if it is just, it marks the conduct of the Chief and Council of Chandernagore in the worst point of view as endeavoring by inundary [incendiarys?] resolutions and false pretexts to excite a national dispute and perhaps even a war between France and England upon most unjust and frivolous grounds.

5. For the rest we refer you to our proceedings at large which went on the Packet of the *Resolution* except the protexts abovementioned and our Proceedings upon the receipt of them we shall by the first opportunity.

Fort William,
the 25th April 1774.

We are with respect
Hon'ble Sirs
Your most faithful humble servants,
Warren Hastings
W.M. Aldersey P.M. Dacres
James Lawrell J. Graham
N. Grueber.

LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1774

New regulations framed for auditing military expenditure—steps to discharge part of Company's old bonded debt—requisition for money from Bombay Government will be complied with.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We take the opportunity of the *Swallow* sloop of war, to convey this letter to Madras, to be forwarded to you, by one of the ships of His Majesty's squadron, expected to sail in October, from that port, and we shall dispatch our first ship, directly from hence agreeable to the time prescribed by charterparty.

2. Of the ships of this season there are arrived

the <i>Speke</i> —Jackson	}	In this river
the <i>Sea Horse</i> —Arthur		
the <i>Asia</i> —Gamage	}	at Madras
the <i>Dutton</i> —Rice		
the <i>Bute</i> —Bendy		

And we have received the packets by the *Salisbury* and *Sea Horse* men of war and by the *Eagle* Packet. The arrival of your China ships will no doubt be advised by your Presidency of Fort S. George as well as the loss of your ship the *Huntington* which we are concerned to learn from private advices was wreck'd on the island of Johanna, returning from the coast of Africa.

3. In our advices of last season we acquainted you of the progress we had made in forming regulations for retrenching the expences of the army, and ascertaining its conduct in the different duties of field and garrison service. Upon these grounds, we next proceeded to arrange a new military code, composed of all the old general orders, which stood unrepealed, and the new regulations carefully collected and formed together into one regular system of military and oeconomical rules for your army. This was compleated some time ago, and has since obtained the approbation of the Commander-in-Chief to whose revisal we had submitted them. We have, however, thought it necessary to delay hitherto establishing these regulations, absolutely and finally on account of the change of administration, which you were pleased to announce to us by the copy of the act of Parliament, inclosed in your letter of 29th October 1773, and which we have for months past been in daily expectation of seeing carried into execution and of receiving your commands on the occasion, as therefore these regulations are intended as a lasting establishment for your army here, we thought it proper to defer it to the ulterior decision of your new administration, more especially as it appears they will be assisted by the judgement of two gentlemen of high military rank and experience. In the mean time we have not discontinued with the assistance of the Commissary General, auditing with great accuracy, and controuling the military expences of the establishment agreeable to the regulations transmitted per ship *Resolution*.

4. In our advices of last season, we informed you of the steps we had taken, towards the discharging of our temporary loan of 1773 and reducing the notes of 1769 and 1770 to a debt bearing an interest of 5 per cent; these points were accordingly long since effected, and the whole of those bonds, discharged at the treasury, excepting to the amount of C. Rs. 5,86,343-1-3 uncall'd for, which lies as a deposit without interest in your treasury. We have now the pleasure to inform you that lately on a summary review of our funds, and an estimate of our probable receipts and issues, under certain heads, we came to a resolution of discharging entirely by the 1st January next, the whole notes of 1771 to the amount of Ct. Rs. 25,70,956-1-9, besides interest, and have given publick notice accordingly.

5. There will then remain of the old debt a principal sum of Ct. Rs. 79,89,312-4 besides the new loan at 5 per cent, which we are in no doubt of paying off, in the course of a few years provided our expences are confined within the bounds to which we lately reduced them, that a great part of our army continues employed and paid by the Vizier, and that he is punctual in the other payments, for which he is engaged to the Company. The course of events is not in our hands, but we have ventured to pledge our endeavours for accomplishing this desirable end.

6. We have also the pleasure to inform you, that these operations on the bonded debt, have so far raised the credit of the Company here, that we have had further considerable sums of money offered us on loans at 5 per cent per annum; we have accepted to the amount of current rupees 15,15,153-8-6, which we applied as already noticed towards discharging the bonds of 1769 and 1770, but have been obliged to refuse the rest, as we had already found resources for discharging those of 1771, and the sum offered was not sufficient for paying off those of 1772, and before next year we hope to be able from our own funds and what loan we may then find necessary to extinguish them at one payment.

7. We are the better pleased with this introduction to a reducing of your current rate of interest, as it is the pure and uninfluenced effect of the prosperous state of our finances, and leaves us at liberty to promote it, without making it our own act.

8. The Presidency of Bombay have again applied to us, for a large supply of money setting forth their distresses in the strongest terms, and requesting immediate relief; we have answered them that the state of our finances and demands here, did not enable us to furnish them to the extent they required, but that we would cheerfully lend our assistance in the most speedy manner, as far as 15 lacs, we had engaged to supply them, within the course of the year, could we find out the means of remittance, but that it was not in our power to obtain drafts here, to the amount of above 5 lacks, and that from doubtful hands, and at the exorbitant exchange of 112 Sa. Pr. 100 Bombay rupees, terms which we should not think ourselves justifiable in accepting not only as it would have proved an immediate and heavy loss of near 19 per cent, on the remittance but as it served to introduce and encourage the exportation of our own specie which we esteem it our duty to guard against by every possible means, as fatal to the commerce and revenue of these provinces. There has, however, lately occur'd an unexpected event, which will afford them, means of taking up money on their bills on us the ships returning from the Gulphs with the produce of the trade for three years past, detained by the late troubles in those countries, great part of which they must either bring round to Bengal in specie, or leave at Bombay for drafts on this place, and we have taken care to secure the refusal for that Presidency, from the owners of several of these vessels, which belong to this port.

9. The balance in your General Treasury this day is Ct. Rs.

	7,72,377-1-9
In the <i>Dewan-y</i> Treasury Sa. Rs.	3,89,1431-17-21
and in the cash Ct. Rs.	18,476-8-5
Fort William,	We are & etc.
22nd. August 1774.	
[Per <i>Swallow</i>]	

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LETTER DATED 17 OCTOBER 1774

Shipping news—Asia to be dismantled—check on illicit trade—curves for bouys in consequence of change of channel between Kedgret and Kulpi—Kebble performing functions of Naval Storekeeper and Paymaster of the Marine—Hamilton put on superannuation list—Capt. Francis Ford indemnified—complaint against Capt. Bendy dismissed—supply of specie and saltpetre to Bombay—duties imposed on all goods as preventive measure—raw silk investment—new mode of winding silk at filatures not yet a success—supply of saltpetre to the Dutch, the French and the Danes—inland postage system introduced—complaint against Capt. Mercer—appointment of Grueber, Hurst and Bentley as Members of the Board—Capt. Rennell recommended for handsome pension—bonded debt to be discharged—check on expenses on public buildings—Capt. Martin recommended for compensation for losses—reorganisation of offices of Naval Storekeeper, Marine Paymaster and Master Attendant—Forbe's case—Dundas' suit against the Company—reception of Sir Edward Hughes.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors etc.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. This letter probably the last which we shall have the honour to address you, is intended to be sent by the *British King*, Captain Hoare, which we have appointed the first ship for Europe, but as in all appearance her final dispatch will fall under the direction of your new government, we must refer you to them, for the advices respecting her cargoe, the register of treasure, and the list of certificates, and drafts and other paragraphs which usually close our respective advices.

2. The certain accounts of the arrival at Madrass of the transports which brings out the gentlemen, appointed by act of Parliament to the Supreme Council, and consequently the probability of our administration ceasing in a very few days, have induced us to address you fully at this time, from all our departments, deeming it most expedient for us, and that it would be more satisfactory to you, that the report of last year's occurrences should come immediately from ourselves, and that we should have an opportunity of accompanying it with our own observations, sub-

mitting all to your judgement, in hopes of obtaining from you, that approbation which to deserve has been the constant end of all our endeavours in the execution of the important trusts, which you have hitherto been pleased to repose in our hands.

3. Our present advices will, therefore, contain every transaction of this season, not yet mentioned by us, since the dispatches of the last, ranged under their proper heads, and will be accompanied by a broken set of the Consultations during that period, as well as a reply to the several letters received from you, by the shipping of this year. You have also herewith a copy of ours of the 22nd August last, to which we refer.

First, of shipping

4. Since the date of that letter the *Dutton*, Captain Rice, the *Bute*, Captain Bendy, and the *Pacific* under the command of Mr. Williamson, Chief Mate, arrived in the river, Captain Barelay of the last died at sea off Ceylon, in the way to Madras. We have also advice of the *Calcutta*, being arrived safe at Madras, a packet by her addressed to the Governor General and Council, lies for them in our hands.

5. The *British King* which last year, after a proper survey we discharged the service, has been lately brought round to this port from Bombay, whither she had been carried by Captain Hoare for the purpose of receiving a thorough repair. Captain Hoare immediately on his arrival in the river, made a tender of his ship to us for the Company's service, producing the certificate of the ship builders at Bombay of her having undergone such a repair. On this we accepted of his tender, and on the usual report from the Master Attendant, of her being fit to receive a cargoe, immediately appointed her, as we have already beforementioned, the first ship for Europe directly.

6. The ships according to this present destination stand for dispatch as follows:

For Europe direct	}	<i>British King</i>
		<i>Asia</i>
		<i>Bute</i>
		<i>Pacific</i>
		Ship from Bombay
For Madras	}	<i>Speke</i>
		<i>Dutton</i>
		<i>Sea Horse</i>

7. We had proposed to have dispatch'd the *Speke*, Captain Jackson, to Madras in the month of August, as an early ship, for that Presidency, but were obliged to depart from that resolution, in consequence of a representation, from Captain Jackson, of the impossibility of getting his ship out of the river by reason of the weakness of his crew, and other impediments, before the last of the month, which would throw him too late, to arrive at Madras, and take in his cargo before the change of the monsoons. The *Sea Horse* the other

Consn.
8th August

only ship in the river being but just arrived and not being prepared for departure, we were obliged to desist from our intention ; but to prevent if possible any disappointment from this to the Presidency of Madras, we acquainted them of it immediately, and desired them to stop any of the ships of the season at their pleasure, which they should find at their Port, after the receipt of our advices. Unluckily, however, the ships were all departed, before our advices arrived, so that the only remedy we have now left, is to send an additional ship to them in the latter season.

8. On applications from Captain Gammage and Captain Bendy, we ordered their respective ships the *Asia* and *Bute* up to Calcutta, to be repaired. Every thing that is wanting to the last, we believe, will be compleated, in proper time but we are given to understand, in a regular report delivered to us by the Master Attendant, the Company's carpenter, and their officers, of a survey held, on the *Asia*, that she is in a condition totally incapable of receiving any effectual repair and that she must be broken up. We have, therefore, thought proper to turn her out of the service. Our more late advices by the same opportunity will most probably give you an account of the measures, which may be taken to supply the place of this ship.

Consn.
22nd August
12th Sept.

9. On an information received from Madras, of a quantity of illicit trade, having been received, on board the *Speke* at Madeira, we took every step in our power, for detecting it, deputing two of the Company's servants, to attend the unloading of the ship, to examine the hold, and to keep an exact account of all the goods delivered over the side ; at the same time that we enjoined the strictest attention in receiving the goods at the Custom House here. We were not, however, able to make any discovery, whether it was that the information was groundless or what is more probable, that the persons concerned had found means of conveying away their counterband goods, by an early opportunity. The report of Messrs. Young and Lloyd, will be found in our Consultations, we are confident that it was made without the smallest degree of favour, and we hope that it will satisfy you, that every thing was done, on our part, that could be devised for the detection of the fraud alledged.

Consn.
21st July

Consn.
22nd Aug.

10. We had also similar information with a similar effect, respecting the *Bute*, Capt. Bendy, and we further received, and payed due attention to your general information, concerning the Madeira ships.

Consn.
5th Sept.

This last, however, arrived so late, the ships being then all unloaded, that it was in vain for us to attempt the detection. We can only observe on this head, in general, that the means of carrying on these illicit practices, in this river are so easy, that it becomes exceedingly difficult, to make any discovery here, and that we apprehend the most probable means of offering, the fact upon the delinquents, would be to obtain proof, at home, of the receiving of the goods on board, which we imagine will be more easy, to be had, when the seamen are discharged, and no longer under the influence of their officers.

11. Upon the annual survey of the river this season, in conjunction with the Dutch, our Master Attendant reported, that the channel between Kedgerree and Culpee, had entirely altered its course, and that it now runs to the westward, in a deep and wide channel, which he esteemed much safer, than the former; in consequence, therefore, they agreed to lay the buoys that way, and notice was accordingly given to the pilots of both nations.

Consn.
11th July

12. Mr. Keble whom you appointed Naval Storekeeper, at this place arrived here, in the *Dutton*, and was immediately put in possession of his office; we further in conformity to your orders, appointed him Pay-Master of the Marine, and he acts now in both capacities, but as you referred in these appointments, to be establishment at Bombay, as a model to be followed here, we have deferred as mentioned under the head of Board of Inspection, the final arrangement of his office, 'till we receive from that Presidency, an exact account of the mode in which it is managed there, and we have written them for such an account accordingly. For more particular advice on this matter, we refer to the paragraphs, under the head of Inspection.

13. Hamilton, the Pilot, whom we advised you, last year, had been dismissed the service for bringing the *Mansfield* into danger in her passage up the river, having applied, to us, representing his distress and pleading his former services of 14 years without reproach, in consideration of these circumstances, and the favorable report of the Master Attendant, we thought fit to put him upon the superannuated list of pilots, at the allowance of 100 Rs. per month.

14. Mr. Sampson is also arrived, and has taken charge of the office of Deputy Master Attendant, to which you have been pleased to appoint him.

15. Mr. Bowey who had long acted, as Deputy Master Attendant, deeming himself aggrieved by the appointments of Mr. Cummings and Mr. Sampson, which precluded him from a succession to Mr. Dean, to which he thought he had a right has lately presented a memorial to us, praying that it may be transmitted to your Hon'ble Court as he apprehends the circumstances of his case were unknown to you at the time of these appointments. We accordingly send a copy a number in this packet, recommending it to your consideration, agreeable to his request.

Consn.
26th Sept.

16. Captain Francis Ford who commanded the *Syren* sloop, that as we formerly advised was sent from this place to Balambangan, with a cargoe for the use of that settlement, returned here some months ago, a passenger in a country ship we learn'd by the dispatches from the Chief and Council there, that they had thought proper to send home the *Syren* with dispatches to your Hon'ble Court, and that they had removed Mr. Ford from the command and bestowed it on Captain Barrow, of the *Royal Captain*, which had been wrecked some time before near that island, we do not pretend to judge of the propriety, of the gentlemen of Balambangan, sending the *Syren* home, and she was undoubtedly at their disposal, as the service of the Company required, but

Consn.
6th June

we do not see sufficient reason for removing Capt. Ford, from the command, especially to give it to Capt. Barrow, who we apprehend by the rules of the services, ought not to have been employed until he had cleared himself of the loss of his ship. It is true the Chief and Council at Balambangan, recommended Mr. Ford to us for the command of another vessel, to be sent to them in the room of the *Syren*, but we did not think it expedient, to build a new vessel merely for the gratification of Mr. Ford, as we knew that they would be supplied by the arrival of the *Eagle* from England; we had no other means left us to indemnify a faithful and active officer for the unmerited injury, which he had thus sustained, but to continue to him his former pay, as a pension 'till we could find other employment for him.

Consn.
13th June

17. We find that Captain Ford addressed you directly on this subject from Balambangan, a copy of this address will be found in the Consn. referred to in the margin.

Consn. 6th June

18. On a representation from the Master Attendant, that 2 pilot sloops were wanting to replace two, which had been worn out in the service and condemned, we wrote to Bombay, to have them built upon the same plan, as the last constructed for us, and we have advice of their being put on the stocks.

19. Captain Bendy of the *Bute*, having preferred a complaint to us, against Mr. Mackintosh his 2nd. mate, we appointed a committee of our Board to enquire into it and on their report we dismissed the complaint judging it frivolous in itself, and not sufficiently proved, in consequence we restored Mr. Mackintosh to his station, from which he had been suspended during the enquiry.

Consn.
17th Oct.

20. Complaint having been often made, that ships were frequently detained in Balasore Roads, for want of pilots, we ordered that no pilot should be allowed to conduct private vessels higher up than Kedgerree, but return thence immediately into the Roads, leaving the ships to procure other pilots at Kedgerree, or from Calcutta, to carry them up to town. This we imagine will in a great degree remedy the inconvenience complained of, by shortening the absence of such pilots from their station in the Roads.

Secondly, of the tradeⁿ of Europe or from one part of India to another

21. Agreeable to our expectations and advices of the 22nd August, we find the Presidency of Bombay, have had the opportunity of taking up cash from one of the Bussorah ships for bills on us. They have already drawn for Sa. Rs. 2,32,960 and as more ships are expected there from the same port, we are in hopes that by the steps we took here with the owners, they will be able to supply themselves in the same manner, to the extent for which they had permitted them to draw.

22. In consequence of an application from the Governor and Council at Bombay, we have ordered 16,000 maunds of saltpetre, to be sent round this season, for the occasions of that Presidency.

23. Since our letters of the last season, we have had no further

demands upon us on account of the settlement at Balambangan excepting for the demurrage of the snow *Phoenix* which was detained 32 days at Balambangan, before the arrival of any gentlemen of the factory to take charge of the opium on the Company's account.

24. The rice which agreeable to what we wrote you per *Resolution*, had been contracted for on account of the Fort Marlborough Presidency, was safely delivered at their port, but a difference arising between the contractor and them about the charges of landing, it was referred to us, and we clearly recollecting our intention in the bargain to have been, that the cargo was to have been received there, on board the ship and landed at the Company's expence as would have been the case with any other vessel which we might have freighted for them, we ordered the demand of the contractor amounting to rupees 750, to be paid.

25. The President and Council at Fort St. George in the month of June last, advised us, that apprehending a scarcity of grain on the Coast, they had thought proper to suspend the collection of duties, on all importations of that article from Bengal or elsewhere, before the 1st October, and also to contract for the delivery of 41,000 maunds of rice from this river, which we have reason to believe has been duly delivered to their order.

26. In compliance with their request, we made publick this suspension of duties, at Madras, but some time after, having cause from the unusual dryness of the weather to apprehend a similar scarcity, here, we deliberated on the means for alleviating it, as will appear on the Consultation referred to; happily, however, a seasonable fall of rain put an end to our apprehensions, and rendered it unnecessary to carry into execution the precaution we had intended to an embargo.

27. We have the pleasure to acquaint you, that the sales of your imports from Europe have this season turned out nearly upon a par with those of the last year, but the article of copper, which was then thought extremely well sold, has brought a price something higher as well appear from the account of sales, and a comparative view of the medium prices, since the year 1770, entered on our Consultation the 20th June last, the brocades then remaining were also disposed of at publick sale, but many of them being old, damaged, and much tarnished were sold at a loss.

28. It having been represented to us, by the Board of Customs, that the established usage of suffering all goods, having a certificate of their being purchased at the Company's sales, at the other Presidencies in India, to be imported duty free, had been greatly abused and was subject to much inconvenience and fraud, we determined as the best means of preventing impositions in future, to charge the duties indiscriminately on all goods imported, though bought at the Company's sales in other settlements after the same rate with such as by certificate of the Custom Masters

at the Presidencies, appeared to have already paid a duty to the Company, and this regulation we ordered should take place from the 1st. May next, that the merchants in those parts, might have time, to be informed of it and regulate their offers at the publick sales, accordingly. We took the earliest opportunities of transmitting circular letters of advice of this resolution to the respective Presidents and Councils.

29. The Company's Auctioneer at this settlement, applied for some allowance from us on the sales of the Company's goods, to defray the charges he is necessarily put to for clerks and other officers to take the account of them as well as a consideration for his own trouble and attention, but as we did not think ourselves authorized to incur any expence on this head, especially after the first agreement with him, upon admitting him to the office, we could only refer the matter to your determination, and in the interim resolved to permit him to draw from the purchasers 1½ Per Mille' upon the amount sales of the opium and salt. This we thought would be about sufficient to defray these charges, at the same time that the charge appeared too trifling to claim any consideration from the bidders, which could affect their offers at the sales.

30. In reply to the question in your letter of the 7th January last, respecting the indent for iron furnaces for melting metal, we are to acquaint you, that they were intended as blast furnaces for the use of the foundry, which being now abolished, there is no further occasion for them.

Thirdly, of investment

31. Having in compliance with your instructions [we] used every endeavour to make the provision of your investment by contract and advertized in due time for receiving proposals for the investment of the present year; several were delivered in before the departure of the *Resolution*, but those from Patna only, were on terms of advantage, which we were induced to accept, as mentioned in our letter by that ship, dated 15th of March. We at the same time observed that although proposals had been received from Cossimbuzar, for the silk investment, they were in terms too vague to be accepted without further explanations; these have been since received together with musters both of the raw silk and silk piece goods and being in general of a superiour quality to the goods sent home of late years, though not altogether equal, to the old musters, the Chief was invested with discretional powers to accept them, the lateness of the season when these materials were laid before us leaving it doubtful whether it might be eligible to receive them, or to continue the provision of this sea on by *gomastahs*, the determination has been given in favour of the contract. which with the provision expected to be made also of the filature assortment will amount according to a calculate transmitted to us by the Chief of Cossimbuzar, to twenty one lacks of rupees and from the dispatches hitherto made to us we flatter ourselves you will find this valuable article of your investment much improved

Consn.
7th Feb.

Consn. 2nd May
correspondence
with Cossimr.
Nos. 22 to 26

and that it will soon be recovered from the declining state to which it has been reduced since the year of the famine, we mean with respect to the quality of the goods, the price still continues very high, nor can we devise any means of reducing it consistently with the encouragement, that has been given for a free and open trade, the necessary consequence of which is an enhancement on the price of goods in those places, where any restrictions might have before prevailed. In such predicament particularly is the raw silk Radanagore, in the Burdwan Province, which for many years had been taken at an arbitrary price, that is at such rates as were judged, sufficient for the maintenance of the *ryotts* or original Providers it then came to less than six rupees p. seer and accounts for the great and partial profit gained on that assortment at the sales in Europe, but since those restrictions have been removed in consequence of the system, universally adopted for a general freedom of trade, the price of this article has risen from six to nine rupees, at which rate a contract has been entered into, for the provision of Radanagore silk this season, and it is still under the market price of that assortment at Calcutta.

32. Prior to the acceptance of the proposals for the Cossimbuzar investment, offers were made to us by Kinker Mundel a native for the provision of 700 maunds of Commercolly raw silk, consisting of 3 letters B. C. D. at the rate of Rs. 10-9 as sicca per seer; as this tender appeared to be advantageous to the Company from the report of the Export Warehouse-Keeper, and Examiner, they were accepted. This offer was supposed to have been independant of the proposals at that time under consideration for the Cossimbuzar investment but it afterwards appeared that to enable Kinker Mundel, to fulfil the terms of his engagement, be required a part of the winders usually employed, by the Company at Commercolly, to be now engaged in his service. This was assented to as the deed of contract had been executed, and an advance made to him in consequence, but it was a diminution of so much from the Cossimbuzar proposals, as the merchants there could on this account engage for 300 maunds only instead of 1,000 maunds. The contract, however, with Kinker was judged to be the most beneficial by the exclusion of the letter E and is accordingly in force.

33. We did entertain the most sanguine hopes that after the first difficulties, necessarily attendant on the introduction of the new mode of winding at the *filatures*, were surmounted, it would have been attended with the advantages there appeared so much reason to expect from it, and although it has not yet answered those expectations we are still willing to hope that it's success will in the end make ample amends for past disappointments as a token that the new or Italian method is likely to spread itself throughout the country. We mentioned in our last that it had found its way into the hands of private adventurers. Proposals were soon afterwards tendered to us through the Chief of

Consn. ditto
cntd. after
No. 22

Consn. Do.

Cossr.
Correspee.
Nos. 41 & 42
46 and 47

Consn. 2nd
May

Cossimbuzar, for the provision of seventy maunds of filature silk upon muster, at the rate of sicca rupees 14.8 for the first, and 14 for the 2nd assortment, which upon the report of the Export Consn. Warehouse-Keeper and Examiner were accepted.
2nd May

34. Mr Wiss, one of the Superintendants of the filatures, having represented that the new mode of winding might be prosecuted with success at Jungeypore, we gave permission for a temporary building to be erected there, and the same was in hand, when proposals were made to us through the Chief of Cossimbuzar, for the provision of one thousand maunds of filature silk, to be manufactured at Jungeypore, and delivered by March 1777 at the rate of 14 sicca rupees per seer of 72 sicca weight, stipulating also that the temporary building should be carried on at the expence of the contractor, and delivered up gratis for the future use of the Company, at the expirany of the contract. He at the same time offered to provide 800 maunds of the Bengal assortment. at the rate of ten sicca rupees per seer. These Proposals though made by a servant of the Company and the Export Warehouse-Keeper of the factory, appeared to be calculated for the advantages of the Company so far beyond any other.

which we were likely to obtain and the security for their performance so good, that we gladly and without hesitation accepted them; our reasons are fully assigned in the proceeding of the Comptroller noted in the margin.
Consn. 7th Oct.

35. On receipt of your commands dated 23d. October 1773, respecting the tonnage for the returning cargoes of the ships, taken up for the present season, we caused a calculate to be laid before us of the investment expected to be provided at this Presidency, together with the remains of last year; from this it appeared that we should be able to furnish cargoes for 5 ships, according to the now encreased rates of tonnage, and your orders for loading them, with surplus, and the Presidency of Fort St George having applied to us for three ships to return, with full cargoes from the Coast. We wrote to Bombay requesting they would assist us with one of the ships consigned to their side of India this season, besides the *British King* of last year—with this they have complied as appears by the destination of your shipping, already mentioned in the paragraph.¹
Consn. 13th June
20th Dec.

Fourthly, of the trade of India, country government, and transactions with the European powers

36. The Director and Council for the Dutch Company have this year applied for and been allowed the same quantity of saltpetre, they received last year.

37. The French Commandant at Chandernagore, having likewise requested that a quantity of saltpetre to the amount of 20,000 maunds should be granted for the ships of their nation, we postponed for some time, our compliance with this request, in hopes that your orders might

direct our conduct in this particular, but the subject not being mentioned in any of your advices hitherto received, we agreed to grant them the quantity desired.

38. We have also received an application from the Danes for 12,000 maunds which has been granted them.

39. The fund arising from the saving of the 'Nabob's stipend etc. has accumulated so as to enable us at different times to pay off viz., 15 annas of the restitution to the European sufferers in the troubles of 1763, and sicca rupees 1,50,000 or $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the donation to Colonel Munro, after liquidating the amount of the Company's demands upon the said fund as advised in our letter of 15th. March last.

40. The agents for the Navy Donation, having applied to us for payment of current rupees 95,156 in virtue of the 11th paragraph of your orders of the 7th January 1774, directing the payment of $\frac{3}{8}$ th of a Penny per rupee, on the whole Donation, and of the sum of Ct. Rs. 72,500 for the amount of the indemnity of interest refunded by them, on the second moiety, and finding this claim to be exactly calculated on the latter of these orders, we ordered the amount to be paid accordingly.

41. In our letter of the 15th March, we acquainted you of a proposition to the Presidency at Fort Marlborough, of sending them the felons who are condemned here to slavery for life to be employed on their fortifications or other public works, but they have declined our offer on the apprehension of receiving more detriment than service from it, unless we could resolve on transporting only such felons, as were skilled in particular branches of handicraft business.

42. In our latest advices of last season, we advised you of a plan we had adopted and were then preparing to carry into execution for establishing a regular post in these provinces. We have now the satisfaction to inform you, that it has completely taken place, altho' by this we cannot flatter ourselves with easing the Company altogether of the expence of their inland correspondence, yet we have on the very grounds of that plan, effected considerable saving, besides what arises from the receipt of postage. This last hitherto has not been considerable, amounting on the whole since the first establishment to 2,500 rupees per month on a medium. But we are in hopes it will increase as the natives become more habituated to that mode of conveyance and are thoroughly convinced of it's security; for their commercial and other correspondence, the monthly accounts, which are entered in the Consultations, will enable you to form a complete idea of the present state of this establishment, we beg leave, therefore, to refer them to your view.

43. In consequence of our resolution to permit no Europeans or others, subject to this Government, to reside in the territories of the Vizier without special licence, the President issued orders to the Commanding Officer at Chunargur, to stop all such whom he should find proceeding thither, and in virtue of this

Consn.
23d May
27th June
26th July
29th Augt.
26th Sept.

Sect. Consn.
4th Oct. 1773

order, Colonel Muir, the actual commandant there, stopped in August last 2 black Portuguese passing his post, with a fleet of boats, and furnished only with the usual *rowthnaks* from the custom house, which they attempted to impose as a passport. The men he sent down to Patna, and allowed the boats to proceed onwards under the charge of a *sircar*.

Consn.
22nd Sept.

44. It seems these boats were loaded on account of Lewis Da Costa, a merchant residing in this place, and that the men were his agents for conducting them. Da Costa apprehending he might be a great sufferer by the removal of his agents, entered a formal protest here against Colonel Muir, for all damages which might accrue from it, with a view to an after prosecution if necessary. Colonel Muir naturally applied to the President for an indemnification against such a prosecution, which on the President's representation of the facts, we did not hesitate to grant it, appearing Colonel Muir had acted strictly in conformity to his orders, nor do we apprehend any consequences from this prosecution, as to the best of our judgement, the orders issued are strictly consistent with the rights of the Company and of your instructions, and we conceive the native Portuguese, residing under our protection to be comprehended under every regulation which binds the other christian subjects of this government.

45. We have been addressed by several Greek inhabitants of this town for permission to build a public place of worship after their own rites, in Calcutta, and as we saw no reason for objecting to their request, the Armenians possessing already the like privilege, it was accordingly granted.

11th April

46. In the month of April last, we received a complaint from the Portuguese Governor at Macoa, against a Captain Mercer, of this port, accusing him of having decoyed away the slaves of several people, belonging to that island, but as Captain Mercer had then just set out on a voyage to China, we informed the Governor of Macoa, of this circumstance leaving it to him to seek reparation of Captn. Mercer himself, on his arrival at that place.

Consn. ditto

47. As Captain Mercer is a man of established credit and reputation, in this place, we are inclined to believe the complaint to be without foundation; nor indeed in such cases do we know of any power residing in us, to afford redress, which we believe can only be obtained by a regular suit at law, for the recovery of the property alledged to be carried off. We have thought proper to make this remark for your consideration because we are liable to receive representations of this sort, from the foreign settlements without knowing precisely how far we ought to interfere, in procuring satisfaction for them.

Fifthly, of fortifications and buildings

48. Soon after the dispatch of our letter per *Resolution*, we received Mr. Phipps's answer to the call we made on him for an explanation of the cause of the bad state of the filature

Consn.
9th May

built by him at Rungpore, of which we then advised you. He not only pleads in his justification the looseness of the soil, on which it stands but also represents that from the same cause it was not in his power to obtain good materials for making the bricks, so that they were originally defective, that further the workmen (there having formerly been no brick buildings in that province) were so awkward and so slow in their business, that they were two years in carrying it on, by which it became unusually exposed, to the rains before it was finished. That sensible of these disadvantages at the time he represented them, to his superiors at Cossimbuzar, and also endeavour'd to guard against them, by giving an uncommon degree of thickness to the walls, as well as depth to the foundation, but that after all so far from the building being totally unserviceable, it is still complete for 56 furnaces, and by means of a temporary building, which he immediately run up, on the failure of the rest, he can be able to encrease the silk of the new manufacture to the utmost extent of our wishes.

49. Mr. Wiss has petitioned us on the subject of the filature he erected at Commercolly, in which he had acted contrary to the restrictory orders of the Committee of Commerce, by augmenting it to double the number of furnaces, to which they had limited him. We are persuaded that a zeal for the service and a confidence of success in the scheme in which he had engaged himself solely induced him to undertake this extension of the original plan, and as the extraordinary furnaces have continued ever since, to be used on the Company's account, and found to be no more than can with ease be kept in constant employment, we agreed to have the value of the additional work determin'd by arbitration, intending to pay him according to the award, but as Mr. Wiss was averse to this mode having no persons to nominate on his part, he chose to lett the matter rest entirely with the Board, and we in consequence ordered an estimate of their value to be made, by the engineer at Cossimbuzar, with a view to decide on the purchase when his report should come before us, but it has not yet been transmitted to us from the Chief of Cossimbuzar.

Sixthly and seventhly, of covenanted servants and accounts

50. We have to advise you of the death of Mr. Lambert of your Council, and of the following of your covenanted servants at this Presidency, since our dispatch by the *Resolution*, vizt.

Messrs. Henry Maclean
 Thos. Hitt Pettit
 Wm. Wynne
 Jas. Bonwicke
 Fredk. Farrer

51. Immediately after the dispatch of that ship, Mr. Grueber was admitted to a seat at our Board in the room of Mr. Reed who went by her to England.

52. Mr. Hurst has also been called upon to take his seat in the room of Mr. Lambert and Mr. Bentley is admitted in the room of Mr. Rumbold,

who we found by the instructions transmitted to us, was no longer esteemed to be in your service here, his name being left out in the nomination of the eleven senior servants, who are to compose the Board of Trade.

53. The Commissary General on his return in June last from Madras, whither his ill-state of health had obliged him to repair, entered upon the charge of his office, and we furnished him with further instructions for the execution of it, in which we endeavoured to prescribe a general line, consistent with the several orders and instructions, which you had given us on that head. We also delivered him copies of the report of the committee of Directors appointed to investigate the army accounts of Bengal and as well of the several regulations, which we had recently formed for the reduction of the military expences.

54. In justice to the propriety of your intention in the appointment of a Commissary General, and to the merits of Coll. Maclean, we must declare that we have reaped the greatest benefit from his service, and have received much assistance from him in carrying into execution the plan for reducing the contingent and other military expences which had swelled to so enormous a height. His labours have been assiduous in his office, and his emoluments we are afraid no way equivalent to them. He is actually with the brigade in the field, or in his way thither, to inspect the supplies there in the duty of his department.

55. Having in our late regulations reduced the allowances of the officers of the sepoy corps to a par, with those of the subaltern European infantry, the former addressed a memorial to us, representing the hardships they suffered from this regulation, as they are liable to many expences, to which the others are not exposed, being generally cantonn'd out a greater distance from the public markets, which obliges them to employ an additional number of servants and also being obliged to hold themselves in continual readiness, for detached services, but as those points were in consideration with us when we formed the regulations and as we judged these disadvantages of the sepoy corps amply counterbalanced by the advantages of *batta* etc. which they often drew by being employed on detach'd and occasional services, we determined not to alter the regulation.

56. We mentioned at the same time, our not being able to discover from our books the smallest foundation for the claim of Captain Spelman's heirs; however in 'obedience to your orders we have attempted to settle it by offering to submit the demand to an arbitration, and if it should be there established from the proofs which the parties may bring, we will immediately discharge it to the amount of the award. We have not yet received an answer to this offer from their attorney.

Consn.
29th Augt.

57. We have duly attended to the paragraphs of your General Letter of 10th December respecting Richard Sim, and other discharged soldiers, and in reply we can only assure you, that we took every method to make public your orders respecting the pension, to which officers and soldiers have a claim, and if any have gone home, without the proper

testimonials for obtaining it, it must have proceeded from their own neglect in not applying to us, or intimating their desire to the proper officer, as in such case they certainly would have been furnished with every necessary certificate. We can only further say, that no pains shall be wanting in us to prevent any mistakes of that kind in future, and in the mean time transmitted a copy of these paras. to the Town Major, for the information of the troops, and gave him directions to conform to your orders, exactly as far as related to him.

58. On a representation of the case Mr. Kenderdine, formerly a surgeon upon this establishment, but then without employment and in great distress having been dismissed the service in the year 1767, on a complaint of inattention to his duty, and it appearing from the testimonials of the officers which he produced, that he was an able surgeon, and had since his dismissal rendered essential service to a battalion of sepoys at Ramgur, to whom he had voluntarily given his attendance, in that capacity, we thought he had already undergone a sufficient punishment for his former inattention and, therefore, restored him to the service as youngest surgeon not to rise.

Consn.
4th April

59. Captain William Thompson who lately commanded the select picquet, has applied to us for the reimbursement of the extra expences, he unavoidably incurred in that station, and as it appears that he had reason from the general orders of Sir Robert Barker, to expect an extra allowance of 20 rupees *batta* per diem when he undertook that troublesome and ungrateful employment, and that he was actually exposed to extraordinary expences in it, we have presumed (tho' we did not think ourselves authorized to grant it) to recommend it to your consideration and hope you will order him the allowance he requests.

Consn.
21st Novr.

60. We are happy that our recommendation of Captain Rennell, and the surveys, which were transmitted to you at the same time, have had the effect to draw from you so honourable an expression of your approbation, and wish to recompence his long and faithful services, as is contained in the 13th Paragraph of your letter dated 10th December. We

Consn.
28th Septr.

beg leave to speak again in his favour, and on occasion of his address to us, referred to in the margin, to point out the means by which your benevolent intentions towards him may be effected, his health destroyed by wounds, incessant fatigue, and the unwholesome changes of climate, to which his duty as Surveyor General has exposed him, renders it necessary for him to think of returning to his native country, but he has resolved not to quit India, before he shall have completed the work, which he has still in hand. His wishes afterwards are centred in retiring with a competency, and some solid testimony of your approbation, on which we take the liberty to remark to you, that no precedent can be drawn from it, as Captain Rennell himself began this business, and has carried it on in a manner hardly to be rivalled, we believe, by any in Europe, and will leave little unfinished in it, no promotion or pension granted to him, can injure

the Rights of others, because his rank being fixed to the Engineer corps, he can rise in that only, notwithstanding that his seniority, in service to many officers bearing higher commissions, might be considered to give him claim to the same indulgence they would enjoy if admitted to reap the benefits of the pension. We therefore venture to recommend Captn. Rennell for the pension he solicits, or some equivalent mark of your bounty, and flatter ourselves that the assiduity, attention and obedience to the orders of his superiors which he has ever manifested, besides his just and inoffensive conduct to the people of the country, in the course of his surveys, and total abstinence from any obnoxious pursuits of wealth added to the perseverance and courage manifested in the dangers to which he has been frequently exposed, render him an object really deserving of your favour. Were it becoming in your administration to importune you with their requests we should think this a proper occasion, and would entreat your benevolence towards a man, who has merited our highest esteem, by his continual good conduct, and whose private character has gained him the love of all who know him.

61. Lieutenant Leland whose trial also goes in this packet, was
 Consn. dismissed the service for disobedience of orders, in con-
 6th June sequence of a sentence of a court martial, but some time
 afterwards at the recommendation of the commanding officer of his
 Consn. brigade, and on assurances of his sense of his former
 11th July misbehaviour and resolution of amendment we thought
 fit to restore him.

62. Mr. Harding formerly a captain in your service, whose quarrel-
 some and violent temper, had been the occasion of bringing him several
 times before a court martial, and who has been dismissed
 Consn. the service, ever since the 28th March 1773, as we formerly
 8th July advised petitioned us in July last, for a revisal of some of
 the proceedings against him, which it was not in our power legally to grant,
 neither did any thing in his representation induce us to alter in his favour
 our former resolution of dismissing him the service.

63. Lieutenant Gardinar respecting whose claim of rank a reference
 was made, to you, from the proceedings of the Board of Field Officers,
 again petitioned us on the discovery, as he alledged of an erasure in the
 Town Major's books, of the date of his rank to his prejudice and which he
 thinks ought to decide the competition between him and
 Consn. Captain Penman, in his favour, our proceedings upto it,
 6th June will be found in the Consultations, we referred to on the
 margin, and the matter being already in reference before you, is now left
 to your final decision.

64. Ensign Bruce having objected to Ensign Skinner's taking rank
 above him, on the score of his being of senior in the King's service, we
 called on them both to produce their commissions and found that Mr.
 Skinner's was of a prior date, but granted in America, by the commanding
 officer in virtue of the authority delegated to him by His Majesty for the

like purposes, Ensign Bruce does not object to those commissions but still insists that the rank in the army, was not settled by them and refers to the War Office for a proof, as this is a point that can only be ascertained at home. We refer Mr. Bruce's memorial to you, before whom it will be his business to bring proper proofs in support of it.

65. Colonel Hugh Grant last month requested leave to resign the service with an intention to go home, in one of the ships of this season; we granted him the permission to resign and appointed Colonel Ironside to the command of his brigade, with a provisional commission of colonel till your pleasure should be known.

66. We have ordered Major Stainforth to refund the 4 months allowance which we formerly granted him, agreeable to your commands and it will be deducted from his current pay accordingly.

67. In obedience to your commands by the *Pacific*, concerning widows entitled to the Company's pension, we have caused the paragraph to be made public, that these directions may be exactly conformed to, in time to come, the names of such widows, as may hereafter be admitted on the list, and paid here in consequence of these orders, will be regularly transmitted to you.

68. Your orders for refunding the commission on the revenue, granted to Sir Eyre Coote, were properly attended to, but as the present Board were not concerned in leaving out his name, at first from the commission account, we could not look upon them as chargeable for the whole refund. We, therefore, ordered, in general, that repayment should be made by each individual of the surplus they had received, on that account, the greatest part will be that manner repaid, here and the only arrears which we apprehend will arise from such gentlemen, as have quitted the service, and gone to England, or such as are dead, if their attorneys should decline paying of these, you will be duly advised, when the matter is properly ascertained.

69. In pursuance of your orders recommending Mr. Baillie to be employed in prosecuting inquiries into the trade and country of Assam, we have directed him to proceed on this business, with assurances of our support, and encouragement in the undertaking and requiring him to send us advice of his success, that we may be enabled to furnish you with the information you desire on that head.

70. We advised you in our letter by the *Swallow* sloop of war, of our having resolved to pay off entirely, your bond debt of 1771, amounting to current rupees 2,70,956-1-9 and our having given notice accordingly.

71. The balance this day in our Treasury, as particularized in the last paragraph of this letter, added to what will be received in a day or two from Patna, will suffice for their discharge, and as the season for the heavy collection is now approaching, there is no doubt but there will again be a considerable amount in your treasury by the end of December next. The sums therefore, which may be expected in the interim from the Vizier vizt., 15 lacks of rupees on account of the cession of Corah, etc. as stipulated

by the Benaras Treaty, and 20 lacks out of the 40 engaged for the Rohilla Expedition, added to about 15 lacks for the bills you have authorized us to draw upon you will be a further fund, for the discharge of your bond debt, and reduce it to 35 lacks instead of 125 lacks, which was the amount of it in August last, the further sum of 35 lacks which will remain due from the Vizier, the payment of which we deem perfectly secure, will therefore be sufficient to cancel the whole of your bond debt, in the course of another season, exclusive of the savings, etc. arising both from the reduction of expences, the particulars of which were transmitted you by the *Resolution*, and from one of the brigades being employed out of the provinces, and in consequence paid by the Vizier, but as your treasury is the only safe fund in Bengal, for lodging the money of widows and orphans residing in the country, who without this indulgence may be distressed for a subsistence, we beg leave to recommend that your administration should be allowed to receive to the amount of ten lacks at the usual interest of eight per cent, on this charitable motive altho' the state of your treasury, should be such that the money may not be required for your use.

72. The proceedings of the Board of Inspection, appertain properly to this, and the foregoing head, but as the detail of them is sent into our Secretary from that department, we shall beg leave for the sake of greater perspicuity to enter it under a distinct head.

Board of Inspection

73. The continuation of the proceedings of the Board of Inspection, since the dispatch of the *Resolution*, is forwarded to you by this conveyance.

74. Our chief employment in this department, has been to watch over and enforce the observance of the regulations, we had adopted, in conformity to your orders, and our own resolutions for retrenching the expences of your subordinate factories, your civil and military buildings; your civil offices at the Presidency, and your military establishments, these objects we have laboured to effect in regular weekly meetings, by the concurrent aids of the Auditor, of the week, and the Comptroller of the Offices and the Commissary General; and we are persuaded that upon a minute review of our proceedings, you will find they have not been neglected.

75. The charges of the factories do not require of us any more particular mention, than what is comprehended in this general summary, as we do not know of any material instance, in which they have been suffered, to exceed the limits of the first establishments, and even where trivial excesses may appear, the evident necessity and reasons to justify them, will at the same time present themselves to you on the face of our records, and the remarks of our weekly auditor.

76. On finding from a concurrence of causes which were briefly enumerated, to you in the letter from this department per *Hector*, that the expence of the publick buildings had in the first year, after the receipt of your orders, per *Grafton*, inevitably exceeded the sum which you prescribed

to be laid out under this head, we came to an early resolution of restricting the expence of the new Fort and other buildings, as much as possible, that we might be enabled, to bring the whole in future, within the limits of your orders, the sum of which we are convinced, when this has been effectively done, will prove amply sufficient for the purposes of this head of expence.

77. The new Fort although far from being brought to state of completion, yet requiring the addition of no considerable works, which were absolutely or immediately necessary for it's defence, except the uncompleted revelins, we determined unt'l we could continue these consistently with the letter of your orders, to put the whole upon an establishment, of expence, answering the purposes of keeping the Fort clean, and the works in proper repair, the different branches which compose this establishment, are recorded in the Consultation noted in the margin, and have been strictly adhered to, as have also the sums we informed you we had limited for keeping in repair the Company's houses in and about Calcutta.

78. In the exception abovementioned, of uncompleted works we should also have specified the facings of the *badares* to the side of the river, which you were advised, had fallen down in the month of September 1773. It will doubtless be proper to repair this work. but we are under no uneasiness on account of the delay, which has occurred in so doing, as those facings appear to us to be only necessary, and, indeed, it is evident, they are only intended from the nature of their construction, for the preservation of the interior earthen works, from the effects of the seasons, peculiar to this climate, and not in any degree for the purposes of defence.

79. We acquainted you of our having published, an advertizement for proposals for contracting for a term of years for the repairs of the cantonments of Burrampore, and Dinapore, many proposals were in consequence, tendered us, for this undertaking, but upon mature consideration of the subject, although we were still of opinion that to enter into such a contract, would be the most eligible measure, for the interest of the Company, as well in order to ensure the effectual execution of the repairs, as to ascertain and limit the expence in a branch which we had so often experienced, to exceed all calculations and estimates, yet we agreed to postpone accepting for the present any proposals for that purpose. Had we accepted them we should have retained a strict eye, to the limits of your orders. Our motives for resolving to postpone the measure, are recorded upon the Proceedings of the Board of Inspection of the 9th June, to which we beg leave to referr, as well as for the establishment, we then judged it necessary to fix for their present indispensable repair, and we flatter ourselves that our conduct on this point, will be honoured with your approbation.

80. For information of the controul which has been exercised

Bd. Inspns. Proceeds.

22d & 25 Novr. 1773

10th & 24th Feby.

4th & 31st March

7th, 14th & 21st April

5th May & 2d June 1774

Consn.
19th May

in checking and regulating the expences of the civil officers at the Presidency, we beg leave to submit to you the diary of the proceedings of the Comptroller, which has been monthly laid before us, and been rendered an appendix, to the Proceedings of your Board of Inspection, the utility and salutary effects already experienced and still to be expected, from this institution, as well as that of our weekly auditor, we are persuaded will not escape your judicious observation.

81. The sett of military regulations we had the honor to transmit you, with our last advices, have by several subsequent additions and orders, been rendered still more compleat. *Per Resolution* These additions and orders have issued from your Board of Inspection, to which department we allotted the cognizance of the military expences, under the regulations we had formed, and in which the concurrence, and hearty assistance of Colonel Mac'eane, the Commissary General, who has always had a seat at our deliberations, on military expences, the most minute attention has been paid, and every endeavour exerted, to enforce the observance of the regulations, and preclude every superfluous and unauthorized expence.

82. It is a satisfaction to us to have anticipated the orders contained in the printed instructions to the new administration, which you were pleased to transmit to us, for regulating the mode of applying for advances of cash, namely that the application, should be accompanied with an abstract account of disbursements, from the last advance, an account of the balance, in hand, and an estimate of the disbursements for which the advance applied for is required and intended. This regulation we adopted so long ago as November 1773, from which time it has been strictly adhered to, and the abstracts have also been regularly entered on record, with the applications, they were entered for some time on the proceedings of the Publick Department; of late they have appeared on those of the Board of Inspection.

83. The President having laid before us, an account of losses sustained by Captain Martin, in the attack made upon Chickicotta, by the Booteas when on his duty there of Surveyor, and without any military charge, with a request that it might remain on record, and stand referred to your pleasure, we now beg leave to point out this circumstance to your observation, and to add our own recommendation, that you will be pleased to allow Captain Martin, some compensation, for his losses, amounting to *sonant* rupees 6,625 which he obviously sustained by a spirited and laudable exertion, for the publick service foreign from the line of his duty.

84. We advised you of a plan preparing by our Master Attendant for the reduction of the heavy expences of the Marine Department, and that as soon as we should be furnished with it, we hope to be able to regulate this office, to your entire satisfaction. *Per Resolution*

85. The plan (which proposed the conducting of the business by

contract) was soon after submitted to us by the Master Attendant, and the
 Consn. expence on, the terms and, conditions therein stated,
 7th April appearing reasonable and moderate, we resolved to conclude a contract accordingly, at the same time we thought it proper to give him the preference as it was a service which could only be conducted, by a person versed and experienced in
 Consn. marine affairs, and as a contract with any other person,
 21st ditto would have been productive of inconveniences by too much diminishing the authority of his office the Master Attendant undertaking to conduct the business, upon the proposed plan, the
 Consn. agreement accordingly took place, for the term of three
 28th ditto years, commencing from 1st May, under the reserve of retaining to ourselves the power of annulling it, should it not receive your approbation or prove upon experience ineligible.

86. A petition was shortly after presented to us by the contractors for supplying the stores to the offices at the Presidency, representing the great loss they were likely to sustain by the stores which
 Consn. were required for the Marine Department being supplied
 19th May by the Master Attendant. This petition was referred to him, and his objections required to receiving the stores. he would want for executing the new agreement from these contractors, before the ratification of it. His answer lay some time for consideration. and whilst the matter remained in this state of indecision your orders arrived for putting the offices of Naval Storekeeper and Master Attendant under
 Consn. some new regulations. It was before a matter of
 1st Sept. hesitation whether the agreement. with the Master Attendant should be carried into execution on account of the difficulties arising to the former contractors, but it could now by your orders, continue no longer, a point of doubt, or discussion, as such a measure would have directly counteracted your new arrangement. It was therefore resolved that the agreement, proposed by the Master Attendant, should not be entered into, but that the Department should be arranged,
 Consn. 16th ditto according to your orders, and we were obliged to exercise the reserve contained in our resolution, of annulling his agreement, and it accordingly stood annulled from the end of the month of September.

87. Having taken under our consideration, the new regulating, and arranging the necessary establishments of the offices
 Consn. 22nd ditto of Naval Storekeeper, Marine Paymaster. and Master Attendant, in consequence of your orders, and observing that you had recommended, the practice of the Presidency of Bombay, as our guide, we have applied to the gentlemen there for a compleat detail of the mode of conducting the business of the Marine, at that place, and as soon as we receive it, we shall not fail to adopt the same plan here.

88. In the interim it has been resolved, that the office of the Naval

Storekeeper, do remain on its present footing, and under it's present establishments, unless the reply from the Presidency, at
 Consn. ditto Bombay, shall point out the propriety of any alterations.

89. With respect to the nature of the Marine Paymaster's office, being unacquainted with the practice of Bombay, we
 Consn. ditto separately directed Mr. Keble and Captain Wedderburn to lay before us, such a plan as might appear to them the most proper for regulating the line of the two offices, and managing them in their detail, together with an establishment of the necessary servants and charges. The plan submitted to us, in consequence
 Consn. 8th Octr. by Mr. Keble, was unanimously resolved upon to be
 11th ditto adopted, under certain additions and alterations and the same having been rectified accordingly they were directed to conform thereto for the present in the management and execution of their respective offices, and we think there is every reason, to expect a reduction of charges and the introduction of a system of method and regularity in your Marine, from the prosecution of the arrangement you have thus prescribed.

90 For your more particular information on all the above transactions, as well as for a detail of others, not mentioned in their abridgement we must beg leave to you, to the proceedings of the Board of Inspection at large, but this being the head of your advices under which it properly falls, we cannot quit the subject without expressing to you the ineffable regret, which we feel in being denied the satisfaction which would have flowed, to us from observing the result of our labours. The general adjustment of your revenue, the regulating, the administration of Justice in both its branches, the new modelling of the Nabob's household, and the political negociations with the Vizier, being objects of the first and most immediate moment to the future prosperity of your affairs, of course claimed the first place, in the attention and proceedings of your present administration, and from this consideration the further objects of regulating, and retrenching the expences of your subordinate factories, your offices at the Presidency, and your military establishments, necessarily experienced, a temporary suspension, and the several arrangements made in them, cannot be said to have taken effect sooner than April 1774. To participate therefore the satisfaction accruing from the result of these our measures, we are induced to say, is denied us; but still we are happy in the reflection that the grand object of them, the interest of our employers will be equally promoted, and that however distant, the appearance of their effects, they can only be considered as the fruits of our labours, exerted with alacrity and unwearied application, since the important trust, has been confided to us, of the superintendence of your affairs. That these fruits must in a very short course of time, produce resources to enable your administration, after discharging your heavy bond debt, to encrease if judged eligible, the amount of your investments, and to restore in general the credit of the Company, by such further application of them,

as you may think proper to direct, are consequences too obvious to escape the attention of the most superficial observer. If this succinct indication carries with it an air of 'self' applause, let 'it find its justification, in your candid advertence, to the predicament in which we stand, on the eve of a change of your government which will deprive us of all further opportunity of communication with you, on the trust we have had, and which we are conscious of having managed with fidelity and attention.

Eighthly of Charter

91. We observe what you have been pleased to write concerning the Company's bonds to Vancolster, you will however perceive by our own advices of last season, that these bonds are no longer in our Secretary's hands, having been attached, and afterwards carried off by a writ from the Mayor's Court, in behalf of his creditors.

92. By the *Triton* a French ship, which sailed a few weeks after the *Hector*, in April 1773, you were furnished with every thing that was wanting for the appeal in the cause of Forbes ; duplicates were also sent by the *Latham* 10th November 1773.

93. An occasion of the paragraph in your letter, by the *Asia* censuring us for neglect in not having furnished you, with the necessary papers in this cause, we shall beg leave to state the fact.

94. All original papers, interrogatories and depositions of witnesses, etc. which are used in the Mayor's Court, remain there, and are only brought up by the Register [*sic*] to the Court of Appeals, on the day of hearing, and are carried back again by him when the cause is determined. By this means the proceedings of the Court of Appeals, comprehend only the petition of the appellant, the answer of the respondent, the minutes of reading the proceedings of the Mayor's Court and the decree of the Court upon the appeals, the proceedings of Mayor's Court comprehend everything else. In all causes of appeal to the King-in-Council, the appellant necessarily bespeaks compleat copies of the proceedings of both Courts, without which we apprehend, his appeal could not come to a hearing. The appellee generally tho' not necessarily, or always, does the same, in the case in question, the Court was only decided in the superiour court and the appeal to His Majesty entered up about a week before the *Hector* sailed. The appellant immediately bespoke his copies and we as appellees did the same ; our copies in the Court of Appeals were had in time, and sent by that opportunity, those from the Mayor's Court which contain all the papers of that Court, could not be had in time, the Register [*sic*] being obliged to furnish the appellant's copies first, of this we advised in our letter, by the above ship, giving it as a reason, for our disappointment, and promising to send them by the next opportunity, which we performed accordingly. This bare recital of facts we trust will fully exculpate us from the blame, which we have innocently incurred.

95. Dundass last summer gave in a bill of complaint, of an enormous length, in his suit against the Company, and called upon us to answer to a

variety of facts of so old a date as the year 1767 and of which none of us have any personal knowledge. In these circumstances we had no other part to take, but to order an answer, to be prepared from our records, with an offer to produce attested copies as vouchers or originals if required by the court. This answer was prepared by our Secretary, and our Attorney-at-Law, and lies for examination. and subscription, upon oath, which we apprehend may well be done by an attorney, in conformity to the act of Parliament, and the suit go on in the new court without abatement or interruption.

96. We by this ship transmit you authenticated copies of the proceedings of such court martial, as have been lately held here as particularised in the list of packet.

97. That an Ensign Curfey was held upon an especial application from the Mayor's Court, claiming our protection in the execution of their processes, and representing that the officers of the Sheriff, had been deformed and assaulted in serving a warrant on Mr. Curfey in the new Fort.

98. The only method which presented itself to us for obtaining satisfaction to the Mayor's Court, in this case, was to order Mr. Curfey to be tried by a court martial, and he was tried accordingly. The court found him guilty of abetting the assault and sentenced him to be suspended for four months from the service. We approved of the proceedings, but as we judge it incumbent on us further to mark on our parts the strongest disapprobation of all resistance to the civil authority, and our fixed determination to support it, we resolved to dismiss Mr. Curfey the service, and acquainted the Mayor's Court with the steps we had taken.

99. We have observed your special directions, about the drafts on you of this season, and agreeable to them gave publick notice of the remittance that was intended to be furnished, that every person entitled to it, might put in their claim for a share. The claims were ordered to be sent in before the first of this month, and soon after that date, we settled a distribution, and advertized that the money would be received into the treasury immediately, and bills given for the amount. List of the drafts will be regularly sent, as they are made by each ship.

100. About ten days ago, we had notice from Sir Edward Hughes of his arrival in this river, with the ships of His Majesty's squadron, under his command. As we were equally desirous of paying obedience to your commands, regarding the reception of the commanders and officers of His Majesty's ships, and of shewing our own sentiments of respect and attention to them, we deputed Mr. Graham, a member of our Board, to wait on Sir Edward Hughes, with congratulations on his arrival, and assurance of every assistance, and accommodation, which it was in our power to give. At the same time we settled the salutes that were to be given him, on his arrival at the Presidency and the allowances to him and his officers agreeable to your orders.

101. We this year advertized as usual for sealed proposals. for the

army contract, and five were given in accordingly, by the time limited, but as we then had received certain accounts of the arrival of the transports at Madras, with the gentlemen from England nominated members of the new Council by act of Parliament, which rendered it probable, the new government would soon take place, we agreed to leave the settlement, of the contract to them, but to provide at the same time against any inconveniency, that might arise from a delay, in renewing it we directed the present contractor, on his offer, to provide supplies for 3 months beyond the expiration of his contract, viz., for the months of January, February and March next, on the same conditions and for the same articles as specified in it.

102. The balance in your General Treasury this day is current
 rupees 4,02,837-11-0
 In the *Dewanny* Treasury, Sa. Rs. 8,90,165-2-3
 And in the Cash Ct. Rs. 15,170-11-6

Fort William,
 17th October 1774.

We are, with respect etc.

22

LETTER DATED 21 NOVEMBER 1774

New Council meets to settle procedural matters—sundry appointments—shipping news—provision for expenses of Sir Edward Hughes and his party.

TO the hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We have the honour to address you by the *British King*, Captain Hoare, the first opportunity that was offered since we assumed the management of your affairs.

2. It was on the 20th of last month that by the presence of the Governor General at Calcutta and the arrival there of our members from Europe on the 19th that we were enabled to hold the first Council. Mr. Barwell arrived at the Presidency two days after.

3. The business of our first meeting was to read the Act of Parliament of the 13th of George the 3rd for the better management of the Company's affairs, the General Letter and instructions which you were pleased to address us, by the *Ashburnham* and *Calcutta*, and immediately to issue a proclamation of the commencement of the new government with orders consequent upon it. We further ordered summons immediately to be sent out to the gentlemen, who were to compose the Board of Trade requiring their attendance at the Presidency within thirty days in conformity to the articles of your instructions. Other matters

requiring consideration were left for the subject of our subsequent Consultations.

4. We each respectively as members of the administration took the oaths of allegiance of office of secrecy and as Justice of the Peace, and at the same time the Board confirmed Mr. Stewart in his office of Secretary and he was sworn in accordingly, with Mr. Aurioll whom we continued as Assistant Secretary.

5. We shall now proceed to advise you of our transactions in this Department in the most succinct manner that occurs to us referring you to the letter from your last administration which is sent in the packet and contains an account of their proceedings in the former part of the season of which they had not already advised you.

6. We also address you from our Secret and Revenue Department by this opportunity and in like manner the addresses in the same branches from your former Council accompany ours.

7. Agreeable to the 38th Paragraph of your instructions we have appointed the Governor General and the two senior members of our Board to be a Committee of Treasury.

8. We have notified the accession of the new government to all the foreign settlements not only in Bengal but also to the Government of Goa, Batavia, Pondicherry, and Tranquebar. We have notified the same to your Presidencies of Fort St. George, Bombay, and Fort Marlbro' requiring from them in virtue of the power vested on us, full and exact accounts of the political affairs of their government.

9. The military commissions of the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief with your instructions respecting them were regularly read at the head of the troops and published in general orders in the manner you directed.

10. The Commander-in-Chief appointed Captain Webber his Aid-de-Camp and Mr. Addison his Secretary, both these gentlemen having come out with your permission in the *Ashburham*. We approved the nomination.

11. We continued the business of your investment under Mr. Aldersey as Comptroller until your Board of Trade should meet.

12. As we found on our arrival that the *Asia* had been dismissed the service and condemned, we judged it necessary to endeavour to provide some means of supplying the deficiency which that would occasion in remitting home the investment of the present season and it occurred to us that this must be best affected by freighting one of the transports the *Ashburham* or *Atison* as soon as they should be disengaged from their former charterparties. For this purpose we directed the Comptroller of the Investment to treat with the owners or their attornies for such freight and to report their offers and terms to us, but we have received no report on the subject.

13. The ship *Bute* which was ordered up to town to be repaired was found on a survey to have a leak in her bottom next to her keel which

could only be stopped by hauling her ashore or by heaving her down. The first method was represented to be attended with considerable risk, but the last to wit, heaving her down was judged to be easier accomplished, and with very small danger, by the Master Attendant and his deputies, and the carpenters, to whom the case had been referred. We, therefore, determined upon it, notwithstanding the objections of Captain Bendywho, however, did not think proper to proceed so far as to protest against it.

14. As this accident to the *Bute* affected the arrangement made for the dispatch of the ships by the delays which were to be expected in her repairs and which would have infallibly prevented her taking in her cargoe in proper time, we thought it proper to alter the former destination of the *Dutton*, and take her up for a direct dispatch to Europe in the room of the *Bute* and have fixed her departure for the 25th December and ordered her to call at Madras to take in any dispatches, which they may have in readiness for her, but that the Presidency of Fort St. George might suffer no inconvenience from this disappointment, we determined at the same time to send there an additional ship, at the end of the season, either the *Northumberland* which is expected round from Bombay or the transport and there can be no doubt of getting either of these vessells, in readiness, in time for their last dispatch, which is generally made late in March or early in April; of this determination we took care to advise them duly.

15. We have attended to all your commands by the *Ashburnham* and *Calcutta*, and as far as, we have been able, to take up their consideration, have issued the necessary orders upon them. The paragraphs relating to Mr. Purling, Mr. Croftes, Mr. Davis, Mr. Guinand, Mr. Rosewell, Mr. Touchet, and Captain Brooke have been communicated to them.

16. Of the gentlemen whom you have been pleased to appoint to different stations here, they are arrived the following gentlemen.

Mr. Paxton appointed Assay Master, and he has been put in possession of his employment.

Mr. Sage

Mr. Goring and

Major Morgan.

17. You were advised by your former administration of the distribution which they had made of the draughts you have been pleased to permit, to be made upon you, this season. On receipt of your further orders respecting this matter by the *Ashburnham*, we directed such alterations as then made necessary. The bills will be granted occasionally by the different ships of the season, and you duly advised of them. Lists signed by us of those granted before the dispatch of this ship, amounts to £ 68,569.2 goes a number in this packet.

18. In consequence of your late orders respecting certificates to the captains and officers of the ships, we have taken care to limit them to the precise sum of £ 5,000 sterling by each ship, calculated at the rate of 2/2½ per current rupee. A list of all such as are granted this season previous

to the departure of this ship amounting to Ct. Rs. 2,15,829-15-3 is also sent signed by us in this packet.

19. In pursuance of our resolution to assemble as a Board of Inspection, we accordingly met on the 10th instant and resumed the business usually transacted by the late Council in this department; and we now forward to you a copy of our proceedings brought up to the 17th instant inclusive.

20. You are advised of the former administration having made such provision for the expences of Commodore Sir Edward Hughes and his officers, as your orders warranted, but soon after the ships at Calcutta, the Governor General laid before us in our Board of Inspection, a representation which he received from the Commodore, with an account of expences, actually incurred by him, for sundry contingent articles, not provided for by the regulation and which disbursements had been defrayed at the other Presidencies, as we were sensible that the allowances, which had been regulated for defraying the expences of the Commodore, and the commanders of His Majesty's navy, were with the strictest oeconomy inadequate to their real occasions and as you have strictly enjoined us in all your orders to cultivate the strictest harmony and understanding with His Majesty's naval officers, we ventured to assume a latitude not granted us by the strict letter of your orders, and an allowance was made for these necessary disbursements, in addition to what had been before fixed, as you will find recorded on the proceedings of the Board of Inspection of the 10th instant, with our reasons at large for this resolution; but as the latitude, we have taken is a deviation from your orders, we submit it's necessity to your judgement for our excuse.

21. At the same time that we referr this matter to your consideration, we must request to be furnished with your orders for our guidance hereafter, as there is at present no precise line laid down for our conduct and we are satisfied of the insufficiency of the allowance you have thought proper to limit for the expences of the Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's squadron.

22. We have granted a passage to Colonel Hugh Grant with his wife and three servants by this ship. The indemnification bonds for his servants make numbers in the packet.

23. We have permitted Mr. Richard Gosling on his application to resign the service to go also a passenger with Captn. Hoare.

24. We have permitted Lieutenant George Sinclair, Charles Pemble, Louis Grant and Lewis Grant to resign the service on account of their health. They have all delivered into us the most authentic Consn. 21st Novr. certificates of the necessity which obliges them, to go to Europe for a recovery, we have accordingly, granted them passage by this ship and have furnished them with the usual certificates of their services. The indemnification bonds for their servants they carry with them are sent numbers in the packet.

25. We have also granted a passage by this opportunity to Mr.

James Grant who has resided for some time in Bengal, he takes with him one servant for whom the indemnification bond is transmitted a number in the packet.

26. Captain Gammage, late commander of the *Asia*, having requested a passage on this ship for himself and his fourth mate Mr. George Ballandyne, we have accordingly granted it to them leaving the payment of their passage money to be settled with Captain Hoare in England according to the tenor of your agreement with the commanders of your ships on like cases.

27. The widow of the late Captain Christian Hanson who died in the Company's service, having applied to us to be admitted on the pension, we complied with her request and directed the Military Paymaster General to pay the same to her during her residence in India conformably to your orders of the 10th December last.

28. We have ordered a passage on the terms of charterparty to be granted to the following persons by this conveyance.

Saml. Flint, late a Conductor of Artillery, who from being superannuated in the service has received a certificate in May last to entitle him to the pension.

Artillery

Thomas Benson, Bombadier	..	..	..	8 Years
Wm. Mc. Leland	..	..	..	5 -do-
Thos. Clarke, Gunner	..	..	..	8 -do-
John Dolphin, Mattross	..	..	..	5 -do-

Infantry

John Willoughby	Serjeant	..	..	5 Years
Charles King	-do-	..	..	5 -do-
George Kons	-do-	..	..	5 -do-
Joseph Barker	-do-	..	..	5 -do-
Wm. Paul	-do-	..	..	5 -do-

Private

Thos. Welch	..	..	..	5 Years
Jno. Fitzgerald	..	..	..	5 -do-
John Robinson	..	..	..	5 -do-
Wm. Mann	..	..	..	5 -do-
George Cross	..	..	..	5 -do-
Wm. Glover	..	..	..	8 -do-
Wm. Bentley	..	..	..	8 -do-
Wm. Brown	..	..	..	5 -do-
Thos. Cox	..	..	..	5 -do-
Robt. Fowler	..	..	..	5 -do-
Richd. Copper	..	..	..	5 -do-
Richd. Bennett	..	..	..	5 -do-

Thos. Bartlett	..	..	..	5 Years
Saml. Barnes	..	..	..	5 -do-
Wm. Cutford	..	..	..	5 -do-
John Bassett	..	..	..	5 -do-
Joseph Newman	..	..	..	5 -do-
Saml. Sayer	..	..	..	5 -do-
Thomas Reed	..	..	..	5 -do-
Charles Campbell	..	..	..	5 -do-
George Lions	..	..	..	5 -do-
Richard Copper	..	..	..	5 -do-

29. The ballance in the General Treasury this day is current rupees 11,96,091-11-9, in the *Diwanny* Treasury *sicca* rupees 16,60,945-6-6 and in the Cash current rupees 15,170-1-6; besides these there is a sum of current rupees 4,32,240 in the mint to be recoined from the money received from Suja-ul-Dowlah.

30. Registers of the precious stones, bullion, Madeira wine, etc. licensed to be sent on board the *British King* will be found number in the packet.

Fort William,
21st November 1774.

We have the honour to be
Hon'ble Sirs
Your most faithfull humble servants.

23

LETTER DATED 4 JANUARY 1775

Specie sent to Bombay Government—Judges want their salaries to be based on silver content of rupee—Commissary General wants a seat on Board of Inspection—Lieut.-Col. Leslie appointed to vacant command of a brigade—Secretary to Board represents for increase in his emolument.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Our last address went by the *British King*, of which we now transmit you a duplicate.

2. This will be conveyed to you by the *Dutton*, Captain Rice, which carries home a cargoe amounting to current rupees 14,97,400 as per the invoice delivered into us by the Board of Trade, and which with the proceedings, and other papers from that Department are sent in the packet as per list.

3. After the order was issued for sending the discharged soldiers on board the *British King*, and the list inserted in the letter, we received a representation from Captain Hoare of the impossibility of carrying them as he had not provided water and other accomodations for them, not having

had early notice of their coming on board. As we were sensible of the justness of his representation, we agreed to dispense with his carrying them by which means the list by that opportunity will be useless. Two men only were afterwards sent on board at the request of Colonel Grant. We have to observe on this, that the reason on the notice not having been sent more early to Captain Hoare is that the soldiers never declare themselves until the first ship is near sailing, nor are they pressed to do it, that time may be left them to consider of renewing their engagements, should they have such intention.

4. We have not yet concluded any agreement with the owner of the transport ships, with whom we advised you we were in treaty for freighting one of these vessels. The *Ashburnham* was first offered but upon her being afterwards sold here, the offers were withdrawn, the *Anson* was tendered to us at £ 21.10 per ton and we agreed to take her up at that rate leaving the other conditions to be settled by the Board of Trade to whom we referred it as nearly as possible to those of the *Asia*'s charter party, most of the conditions are agreed upon but there is still some demur about the articles of men and guns, and how it will be determined we cannot yet say.

5. On the 12th ultimo we dispatched the *Speke* to Madrass with her proportion of saltpetre and redwood, and on the 28th the *Sea Horse* to the same port with her proportion of the same articles. The amount of both, their invoices being for the first current rupees 41,330 and the 2nd current rupees 34,725, are charged as usual to that Presidency. We also shipt by their order on these vessels 1,400 bags of wheat and 100 bags of peas amounting to current rupee 9,545-8-9; what is still wanting to compleat their indent will be sent by the other ship, we propose sending there

6. On these ships we permitted the following persons to embark for Europe, viz.

7. By the *Speke* Messrs. Fryer and Paiba late mates of *Asia*, their passage money to be settled in England.

8. By the *Sea Horse* Mrs. Rider wife of Mr. Jacob Rider, one of your covenanted servants, and Mr. J.W. Miller who came out this season with your licence; the bonds for Mr. Rider's servants are sent numbers in this Packet. The registers of bullion and Jewells by these ships were dispatched to Fort St. George to be enclosed in their packet to you from that Presidency, and duplicates are now sent you.

9. Since our last advices we have received a letter from the Presidency of Bombay representing in the strongest terms their distresses for want of money and informing us of the difficulty which they found in procuring any there or at Surat for their drafts on us, and also of the disappointment they had met with, in the plan, we had laid down for them of securing the remittances from the Gulphs as only two of the vessels from that quarter were arrived, and the others not expected this season. They further acquainted us that they had thought it requisite to dispatch the *Shark* gallivat with this intelligence and entreated us to return her

immediately, with as large a proportion as possible of the 15 Lacks of rupees, which we had promised them, in bills or specie as might best suit us.

10. On receipt of this letter we took into consideration the circumstances represented to us in it, and finding the necessity of sending them an immediate supply and the impossibility of procuring bills for that purpose we determined as the only resource left to make them a remittance in specie to the amount of 10 lacks of rupees, and as the *Shark* gallivat was found to be a vessel of only 70 tons burthen, manned with no more than 4 Europeans and 30 *lascars*, we deemed it unsafe to trust her with so considerable a charge especially as the presence of His Majesty's squadron, gave us hopes of being able to obtain a much more secure conveyance.

11. We accordingly applied to Sir Edwd. Hughes who, with the greatest readiness and in the most cordial manner, acquainted us that he was happy in the occasion of lending any assistance to the Company, and that the *Sea Horse* Captain Farmer, should be at our orders to receive and transport to Bombay any sum we chose to send. We have in consequence ordered the 10 lacks of rupees to be put on board that ship and have agreed to pay a freight of 2 and $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent for the same on Captain Farmer's signing bills of lading as usual.

12. We have also lately accepted drafts to the amount of *sicca* rupees 1,17,105-4-5 from the Presidency of Bombay, and we learn from private letters, that more are granted on us, that on the whole we shall rather exceed the 15 lacks, which we promised to admit them in the course of the season.

13. Some days before the dispatch of the last ship we received an address from the Judges containing among other things, a request for the payment of their salaries and desiring to know as these were settled in sterling money in what specie and after what rate they were to be paid.

14. After deliberating duly on this subject and examining the records of the Company for the different rates of exchange, allowed by them at different times, and also informing ourselves of what was required and given for bills by private people, we endeavoured to strike a medium, and on these grounds offered to the Judges, their salaries in rupees after the rate of 2/- for each current rupee.

15. To this they replied that the course of exchange ought not to determine the rate of payment of their salaries, because that depended upon many extraneous circumstances, and was continually varying, whereas their salaries ought to be the same every year. That even payment in any quantity of bullion which might be supposed to produce the value of their salaries, if sold in England was liable to the same objection as the price of bullion was continually fluctuating at the market, that, therefore, they apprehend the only rule by which this point could be properly determined was the quantity of pure silver in the coins of England, and they declared they were willing to receive here for a pound sterling as much pure silver in *sicca* rupees as is contained in 20 shillings in England.

16. By this rule they compute, that they ought to receive here 90,638

current rupees for £ 8,000 sterling and 67,979 current rupees for £ 6,000 sterling, which being so much above our offer they declined accepting it. They accompanied their requisition with the date and calculations on which they grounded it, which will be found in the Consultations noted in the margin. We in reply told them, that this was a matter too nice and delicate for us to determine absolutely upon it, without further lights and instructions, that, therefore, we proposed to refer the whole to your decision, and in the meantime, if it met with their concurrence, to order money to be issued to them from the treasury to the amount of 80,000 current rupees per annum for £ 8,000 sterling and 60,000 current rupees for £ 6,000 sterling on their simple receipts to account, the payment to be made monthly as usual with the other salaries to the Company's servants. In this proposal they have acquiesced agreeing to wait your decision but reserving to themselves the right of objecting should they find it not to correspond with their ideas what they deem just.

17. The Judges have also lately sent into us an estimate of the publick accomodations which they judge are wanting for themselves and their officers; we have not yet been able to take it into consideration, but we have in the meantime granted them the use of the Court House which was formerly occupied by the Mayor's Court. They have not yet given in their table of fees and salaries for the officers employed under them; it shall be duly considered when it comes in.

18. The Commissary General lately returned from the army, and soon after his arrival addressed on the alteration which he conceived his situation had undergone by the late change of administration and requested that he might be summoned, as formerly, to take his seat with a deliberative voice at the Board of Inspection and that he might be put on the establishment as to salary on the same footing with the youngest member of our Board.

19. We acquainted him through our Secretary, in reply, that we did not conceive that we were entitled from the Act of Parliament to admit him to seat on any condition at our Board nor did we think ourselves empowered to grant him any greater allowance as Commissary General, than what was enjoyed by the youngest Counsellor on the late establishment.

20. On this resolution being communicated to him, the Commissary General thought fit to address us again, representing that he could not acquiesce in it, as he apprehended, he could not answer the original intention of his appointment if he was debarr'd the seat, he required and also declared that he deemed himself entitled to the allowances of the youngest Counsellor on the present establishment, and for these reasons he requested our permission to resign the service and repair to Europe by the *Dutton*, to submit his case to your Honourable Court for their final determination.

21. We accordingly granted Colonel McLeane the permission he

asked for, having first called him before us, to examine him concerning some accounts and matters in his department, on which we desired information; he attended and gave us the satisfaction we wanted. His examination appears on the proceedings.

22. On Colonel Champion's resignation, as advised in the Secret Department, we were applied to by Lieutenant Colonel Leslie claiming an appointment to the vacant rank and command, until your further pleasure should be known, agreeable to the 20th paragraph of your late instructions. The only objection that could arise was from your advice of having restored Messrs. Stibbert and Morgan to the service but as it is certain that neither of these gentlemen can arrive here for many months to come, and that it appears essential to the service that the brigade should not remain without it's full establishment of field officers, we thought it expedient to grant Lieutenant Colonel Leslie the appointment he claimed, sensible that it cannot affect the rights of Messrs. Stibbert and Morgan on their arrival according to the rank you may be pleased to confer upon them.

23. Our Secretary has lately laid before us a memorial representing that by the appointment of the Supreme Court of Judicature, his office of Clerk of Appeals is abolished, and thereby the principal source of his emoluments annihilated. That this post during the regular sitting of the Court might be rated at from 12 to 1,500 rupees per month and had ever been annexed to the Secretaryship as a compensation to the person holding it for the vast trouble and fatigue of so laborious an employment, and in consideration of the smallness of the salary affixed to it. That he also suffered a further diminution in point of emoluments from his fees on commissions by the incorporation of the two battalions of each regiment into one which caused a reduction of the establishment of officers and threw a number of supernumeraries of each class upon it, sufficient to supply all the vacancies likely to happen in the ordinary course for some years to come, so that from these circumstances the office of Secretary was reduced to the bare appointment of 5,000 per annum, and this too at a time when the importance and business of the government was so considerably increased, not only in the management of the affairs of the provinces immediately under our direction, but by the addition of the power of controul over the Presidencies of all India, in their political interests and connections and of course the duties of our Secretary proportionally augmented.

24. As you had not formed any establishment in your regulations and instructions for the office of Secretary to our Board, and being sensible that it could not be your intention that the appointments of the chief officer of the present government, should be inferiour to those he enjoyed under the late Administration, we agreed for the present to allow him a salary equivalent thereto, on an average of some years past, and accordingly granted him 2,500 rupees per mensem in full of all salary, gratuity, etc.

25. But as it is necessary that the Secretary of this government whom you have been pleased to fix to that station, and thereby to preclude him from the right of succession to any other, and to confine his residence to Calcutta, should have allowances suitable to the dignity of his employment, to enable him to support himself with credit and independence, and even to afford him a prospect of some further advantages, both on account of the importance of the trust, the great degrees of trouble and attention as well as talents necessary for the execution of it, which must take up his whole time and render it impossible for him to conduct any private concerns with advantage to himself, and to induce persons of rank, education and abilities, to undertake the the charge with a view only to the object of it. We therefore, take the liberty in this place to recommend to you to, affix such ample salary for this office as, in your judgement, may appear adequate to the consequence of your affairs and sufficient to answer the above ends.

26. Mr. John Laird, whom you appointed in your commands of 2nd February 1774 to take rank as a surgeon upon this establishment from the 23rd February 1771, laid in a claim to rank as a full surgeon from that date, whereby he would have been placed above several who have been many years in the service, but as the professional term surgeon is used in all your appointments, of this kind as well as in the warrants granted by you in England, which never intitle the persons holding them to more than the rank of an assistant surgeon on their arrival in Bengal, we could not, conformably to the rule of the service, grant Mr. Laird any rank but that of an assistant surgeon from the period you have directed.

27. Agreeable to the form prescribed by the new Charter of Justice the Junior Judge attended us on the 6th December with a return from the Supreme Court of Judicature of three persons for our election of one to serve the office of Sheriff¹ for the present year, in consequence of which we appointed Mr. Alexander Mackrabie and the usual oaths have been administred to him accordingly.

28. We are sorry to inform you of the death of Lieutenant Colonel Lillyman, late the Chief Engineer at this Presidency; we have not yet appointed any person to succeed him in his office.

29. Messrs. James Lawrell and John Graham, two of the members of your late Council, having lately applied to us for leave to resign the service with a reserve, which you allow, of their claim to return to it again if you should think fit hereafter to employ them, we have granted permission to them on these terms and have granted them a passage on this ship. The latter carries Mrs. Graham and his family with him.

30. We have also permitted the Honourable Frederick Stuart to resign the service, and to return to England in this ship, for the benefit of his health.

31. Mr. John Routledge a surgeon in your service, who was lately stationed at Cossimbuzar, has received our permission to resign his

employment and take a passage to Europe by the *Dutton*.

32. We have likewise permitted Lieutenant George Russell of the Engineer corps, to resign the service and return to Europe by this ship.

33. And we have also granted a passage to a Mr. Lewson and to Mr. G.T. Becket, late an officer of the *Asia* leaving the amount of his passage to be settled with Captain Rice in England, in the usual manner.

34. Mr. John Charles Middleton has also obtained our leave to embark as a passenger per *Dutton*.

35. The indemnification bonds executed by the passengers for such servants as they take home with them make numbers in the packet.

36. A register of the bills drawn on you since our last amounting to £ 30,281 sterling also a register of the certificates granted by this ship amounting to current rupees 49,399-10-3.

37. There is this day in the *Dewanny* Treasury a ballance of *sicca* rupees 25,24,740-6-1. In the General Treasury current rupees 14,81,309-2-6 and in the cash current rupees 9,096-8-9.

Fort William,
the 4th January 1775.

We are with respect,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants.

24

LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1775

Shipping news—negotiations for freighting Anson concluded—complaint against Capt. Rice of Dutton for refusing to receive discharged soldiers—Capt. Mercer fulfils engagement—Board of Trade's demand that salt business be transferred to them; their request to be allowed to appoint surgeons at subordinates not acceded—proposal to plan new building for Supreme Court—Major Morgan paid for period of break in his service—Major Fortson appointed Chief Engineer—Col. Dow appointed Commissary General—changes in the office of Secretary.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We now address you in duplicate by the *Bute* and *Pacific* making the former of these ships, the conveyance of our original proceedings and dispatches and sending only duplicates by the latter, with the original of this; you will also receive a duplicate of our last by the *Dutton*.

2. The invoice of the *Bute's* cargo, amounting to current rupees 13,52,800 and that of the *Pacific* to current rupees 13,85,000 have been received from the Board of Trade and make numbers in the respective

packets of each ship, together with such other letters and papers, as have been delivered to us from that Board for the purpose, observing the above rule of making the *Bute* the original dispatch. *

3. We have been informed from private accounts of the *Dutton's* safe arrival at Madras the 3rd instant, and publick advices from the Council there, acquaint us that the *Speke* left their port for England on 27th January and that the *Sea Horse* was then to sail in about a fortnight.

4. We have received a letter from the President and Council at Bombay transmitting us a copy of your letter to them overland dated the 2nd September last, and we observe the contents, but this letter having been but very late'y received it has not yet come publickly before us.

5. The *Northumberland*, Captain Rees, is just arrived in the river from Bombay after a tedious passage. We hope that she will soon be unladen when we shall dispatch her as early as possible to receive a cargo at Fort St. George agreeable to the promise already made to that Presidency.

6. In our letter of the 4th ultimo we informed you that we were in treaty for taking up the ship *Anson* to freight on the Company's account. We have since concluded an agreement for her at the rate then mentioned of £21-10 per ton, the Company being at the charge of returning any *lascars* which the owner may be obliged to employ in the voyage home, should he not be able to compleat the compliment of men with Europeans, the other conditions are the same as the *Asia's* charterparty except that we were obliged to relax in the article of guns and consent to her carrying only 10 nine-pounders and 4 four-pounders the owner not being able to procure more than these and we likewise being unable to supply him with any properly fitted upon ship carriages from our own stores. We propose to make this the annual ship for carrying home the books and papers of 1774 and have fixed on the 6th March for closing her dispatches.

7. We think it necessary to observe that we had not an opportunity of examining this ship's bottom, as we wished, by ripping off a part of her sheathing, the saltpetre having been put on board her upon a common survey before the bargain was finally concluded.

8. The Board of Trade informed us that exclusive of the *Anson* they should have a sufficient cargo for another ship and that they understood the owner of the *Ashb rnham* would agree to lett her on freight to the Company, we accordingly desired them to treat with him. He offered her at £ 25 per ton but required that the *lascars*, whom he might be necessitated to employ in navigating her, should be maintained by the Company, during their stay in England and a passage found them out again unless the Company thought proper to take up the ship to return to India with troops or stores, and that we should recommended to you to take her up in that manner in which case the condition respecting *lascars* was to have been dispensed with ; thinking these terms exceptionable

we referred the matter back to the Board of Trade that they might endeavour to obtain better but finding that the owner was unwilling to make any abatement of his former terms, although he offered the alternative of taking the ship at £ 22.10 per ton, provided we would agree to allow demurrage for every day, by which her passage from hence into the river Thames should exceed six months, we deferred agreeing to them untill we could know from the Board of Trade whether the cargo which they expected to have in readiness for this additional ship was a part of the investment of last year or purchased lately with ready money, and on being informed that it had been provided from the advances of the last season, we judged it more for your interest to take up the *Ashburnham* on the conditions proposed than to suffer the goods to lie in the warehouse here, and accordingly came to a determination to that effect ;

Consn.
9th February but before this could be communicated to Mr. Price, the owner, he addressed the Board of Trade to withdraw this offer having already engaged the ship another way.

9. We have very lately had an offer of a country vessel called the *Nancy* at £ 22 per ton but the owners requiring from us an indemnification against the seizure or detention of the ship in England, to which they thought she was liable from not being British built, and also an engagement to secure them a freight of marine stores back to India we rejected these conditions and they declined to lett her on any other terms.

Consn.
20th ditto

10. We are sorry to have further occasion of complaint against any of the captains of your ships on the subject of charterparty passengers, and were in hopes to have fully obviated it by ordering the person who dispatched the ships to enter a formal protest against the commanders. ^{all} case of their refusing to receive the discharged soldiers ordered on ^{their} board, on the terms of charterparty. Thirty one men were, under these orders, sent down to the *Dutton* about a week before the close of her dispatches, but Captain Rice refused to take any of them on board alledging that he had not laid in a sufficiency of provisions and water, for them ; nineteen of these men embarked on board a Dutch ship then ready to sail for Europe.

Consn.
19th January

11. This information was not communicated to us until the return of Mr. Graham the person sent down to dispatch the ship.

Consn. ditto He protested against the Captain agreeably to the orders he had received.

12. We cannot help remarking on Captain Rice's reasons for refusing these men, that the time between the notice being sent him and the dispatch of the packet, was certainly sufficient for him to lay in such an additional stock as might have been necessary for the numbers of people he had to carry, but as we find all the captains endeavour to avoid carrying home the discharged soldiers unless it suits their purpose, when they are weakly manned; and as besides the accidents and disappointments to which these poor people are exposed by such refusal, in one instance no less than

9 or 10 being drowned last year in returning from the ship, we judge it of infinite consequence for the credit of the Company that they should be duly returned to England, at the expiration of their service, in terms of their contract, if they do not chuse to enter into fresh engagements; we think it absolutely requisite to use more rigorous measures to enforce their being received on board the ships. We have come to a resolution that the persons who dispatch the ships shall have a written order of suspension directed to the captain to be delivered to him in case of his refusal, with an order, at the same time for the Chief Mate to take command of the ship to England. We shall take care that the earliest notice possible be given to the captains of the number of persons, destined for the respective ships, as charterparty passengers.

13. We have the pleasure to inform you that Captain Thomas Mercer has completed his engagement to repay three lacs of current rupees with interest to the supracargoes at Canton, and we have accordingly delivered up his bond, of which we advised you in our letters of last season, the supply as we are advised came very opportunely to them.

Consn.
23rd Janry.

14. He has lately made an application to us for a further loan of two lacs of rupees, to be repaid in China in the same manner, but having altered the conditions offering only to repay at the exchange of two shillings per current rupee, with interest at 5 instead of 8 per cent we rejected his terms as too disadvantageous for the Company.

Consultation
23rd January.

15. Captain Tryon, the Commander of the *Arcton* not having a surgeon belonging to his ship applied to us desiring that we would appoint an assistant surgeon from the establishment, to do ^{the} duty for the voyage but we did not think proper to comply with his request.

Consultation 30th
ditto.

16. Mr. H. Thomson Purser of the *Bute* presented us a bill for £3.18 for necessaries supplied to the recruits sent by that ship during the course of the voyage, we refused to pay it, and referred him to you on his return to Europe, as customary with respect to bills of that nature.

Consultation
30th January.

17. We have lately received a letter from the President and Council at Fort Marlborough, requesting to be furnished with the usual yearly supply of stores, and also with 50,000 Spanish dollars in specie besides an advance of 8,000 At. Rs. ¹ to their agent Mr. Moore and advising of a bill drawn on us for 12,000 dollars more, the two last demands have been discharged, and we have directed the stores to be laden on the *Fortre* which vessell they have sent round to receive them. As it was not possible to procure Spanish dollars have we purchased 20,000 German crowns which we are given to understand will answer equally well upon the West Coast, and intend to make up the remainder of the sum in *Arco* rupees; these sums we shall remit in specie by the *Fortune*, as they desire.

Consultation
Do.

18. Having received from all the subordinate factories and councils returns of the Company's houses under their direction, we proceeded on the 23rd ultimo to the distribution of them, and you will find on our Consultations of that date the particular houses which have been allotted to the different servants of the Revenue and Commercial Departments.

Consultation
23rd January

19. The Board of Trade understanding the nature of the salt business to be commercial and of course to come within the line of their department by your instructions, applied to us last month for the management of it to be delivered up to them. but as we on the contrary considered this branch as merely an object of revenue and consequently put particularly under our management, by the act of Parliament, we could not assent to their application and replied to them accordingly.

Consultation
16th January

20. They also applied for the liberty of appointing surgeons for their department at the subordinates, from the general establishment, as had been allowed with respect to the covenanted servants for the business of the investment, but we replied that as there was no peculiar qualification required for the surgeon of one department more than the other, as was the case in the servants selected for the business of the investment, we conceived that the same surgeons might act for both, besides we deemed a division in this branch of the service would be prejudicial to the right of succession in the general line of surgeons.

Consultation
30th January

21. In consequence of the application from the Supreme Court of Judicature, advised of by the *Dutton*, for the fixed and permanent use of the Court House, with such additional accommodations as might be required to make up the number of apartments, being 21 rooms, as mentioned in their estimate, we applied to the Vestry² for a lease of the entire Court House at a fixed annual rent for a certain number of years, but the Vestry Judging that the subscriptions raised at different times towards this edifice, with particular conditions created a right to the publick inhabitants, to the use of this house in many cases. they declined letting the whole to the Company. In consequence of this we shall be obliged to look out for some other temporary accommodation for the Supreme Court, but we have also ordered the Chief Engineer to prepare a plan of a new building capable of accommodating them, conformable to the state³ they have delivered into us, and to lay it before us with an estimate of the expence of erecting it; these we propose sending to you for your consideration and shall wait your orders in consequence.

Consultation
9th February

22. The Court of Requests⁴ having been dispossessed of the apartments which they lately held in the Court House, they desired to be accommodated with another house which had been offered them at the monthly rent of 140 rupees; this we accordingly consented to.

Consultation
11th January

23. Major Morgan laid before us an account of the pay and *batta* which he would have been entitled to, by remaining in the service and we ordered his bill for the same to be discharged in conformity to the 12th paragraph of your orders of the 7th January 1774. We likewise ordered the Military Paymaster to pay him a sum equal to the amount a major's share of the commission on the revenues for the period of his absence, but a doubt occurring whether the off-reckonings not being an allowance from the Company, were by your order to be made good to him we agreed to refer it for your fresh orders on this head.

24. Lieutenant Hook also petitioned us for the amount of his pay, etc. during the time of his dismissal from the service, **Consultation 19th January** quoting the precedent of Major Morgan, but we informed him that it could not be allowed without the same express order from you, as had been given in his case.

25. In the list of cadets whom you had appointed the last season for this Presidency we observe the name of John Dennis, we were applied to some time ago by one James Dennis alledging that he was the person meant, but as we found that this man had been formerly **Consultation 16th January** a private soldier in your service here, and tried by a court martial at Allahabad the 9th August 1769, when he was found guilty of desertion and sentenced to receive 800 lashes, we deemed him unworthy of the Company's service and an improper person to rank with gentlemen in the army. We, therefore, refused his application and ordered that he should be returned to Europe by the next ship.

26. We have appointed Major John Fortnom, the next in succession, to be Chief Engineer in the room of Lieutenant Colonel Lillyman deceased with the provisional commission of lieutenant colonel **Consultation 16th January** and have promoted Captain Rennell, the oldest captain in the Engineer corps, to the provisional rank of major, until your pleasure should be known.

27. We have also appointed Lieutenant Colonel Dow to the office of Commissary General, vacant by the resignation of Colonel Maclean, and Major Morgan to the office of Quarter Master General vacated by the promotion of Lieutenant Colonel Leslie, which we advised of in our last. **Consultation 18th January**

28. Mr. William Wood, late Sub-Accomptant died here on the 12th ultimo and Mr. G. Livius declining the succession to that office, agreeable to your nomination in his favour, we appointed Mr. Larkins, the former Head Assistant, to be Sub-Accomptant in the room of Mr. Wood. **Consultation 19th January**

29. In compliance with your orders to allow Messrs. Peacock and Christie, what we should think reasonable for the services they had performed in Morung, we agreed to allow them **Consultation 23rd January** 250 rupees per mensem as a salary for the time they had been employed by the Company, and ordered payment of their bills to be made accordingly.

30. The fund arising from the savings on the Nabob's stipend, etc., having enabled us to discharge the whole demand on account of the restitution to Europeans in 1763, we have accordingly paid it to their several agents here, and have taken a receipt for the 16th anna of the same; there only now remains a proportion of 50,000 *sicca* rupees to be paid to Colonel Munro from the above fund which sum is lying in the treasury and will be delivered on the application of his attorney.

31. Having in consequence of the desire of the Bombay Presidency, called upon the passengers who came out in the *Vansittart*, for their depositions, upon oath of what they knew respecting the unhappy affair of Captain Ferguson's death at the Cape of Good Hope, we have received from Mr. C. Grant, an affidavit made here with a Dutch copy of the testimony, which he gave before the Fischal [Fiscal] at the Cape, both which make numbers in the packet.

32. On a report from the Sub-Treasurer that a balance of £22,444.5 of the £1,80,000 you permitted us to draw for, had not been taken upon the 1st February by the persons who had laid
 Consultation 10th February in claims for shares, we agreed to allow to General Clavering, Colonel Monson and Mr. Francis each a proportion of £3,300 out of the above balance, and we shall make a further distribution of the remainder after the dispatch of these ships.

33. On the new arrangements of the servants and business of your different departments here we judged it necessary to take into consideration the proper establishment of the Secretary's office, we had previously given orders to our Secretary to prepare and lay
 Consultation 16th January before us a plan for that purpose. His report is full, and we think that he has investigated the causes of the former defects, with great truth and proposed a proper plan for remedying them. We have adopted his scheme entirely and have no doubt but we shall feel the good effects of it, in the manner of carrying on the business as he will now be able to procure capable assistants, and offer them sufficient inducements to continue their services there.

34. Captain Clotworthy Gowan having preferred to us a claim of indemnification for a loss which he sustained by the villainy of the sircar major of his battalion, who robbed the military chest of a sum of current rupees 8,972-5 of which the sircar was afterwards convicted before a court martial, finding on enquiry that the sircar had not been appointed by him and that by the general orders he had not power to remove him, we could not think in justice that he should be made responsible for the loss and ordered the money to be repaid to him but resolved that, in future, all sircar majors shall be appointed by the captain of the battalion, and removeable at their pleasure, consequently that they shall be responsible for them, and we gave it out in general orders accordingly.

35. Mr. Morris, the late Attorney-at-Law for the Company, having

thought proper to retire from business, we have appointed
Consultation Mr. Hercules Durham to succeed him, in conducting their
10th January business in the Supreme Court, and likewise appointed
 him attorney for the Company in terms of the new charter of justice.

36. Colonel Champion, who resigned the service agreeable to the
 advices from our Secret Department, takes his passage to Europe in the
Pacifick.

37. The Honourable Charles Stuart, late member of the Board of
 Trade, finding it necessary to repair to Europe on his
Consultation private concerns, has resigned the service and proceeds in
6th February the *Bute*. In his letter of resignation, he intimates his
 intention of claiming the future indulgence of the Company, in case it may
 suit him to return to his station.

38. Mr. Francis Russell, late surgeon at Dacca, has also been
Consultation permitted to resign the Company's service and to return
6th February to Europe by the *Pacifick*.

39. Mr. Hugh Inglis and Mr. George Graham have received our
 permission to embark on the *Pacifick* and Mr. Thos. Ashburner and Mr.
 Alexander Burrell on the *Bute*; Mr. Inglis takes with him four children.

40. Ensign William Ann Skinner has desired leave to go to
 England by the *Bute* on his private affairs; we have
Consultation permitted him to resign his commission in the Company's
11th January service and granted him a passage accordingly.

41. Mr. Charles MacDonald cadet, has also resigned and obtained
 our permission to go in the *Bute*.

42. We transmit you by the *Bute*, a general return of all the
 Company's troops under the command of this Presidency and a complete
 account of the establishment in regard to pay, etc., which papers have
 been delivered in to us by the Commander-in-Chief for that purpose; the
 other ordinary returns from the Town Major's office you will also receive
 in due course by the same conveyance.

43. Lieutenant Thomas Hatch, having produced certificates from
 the surgeons of his being invalided and taken the oath
Consultation prescribed to entitle him to the pension, we have permitted
23rd January him to resign the Company's service and to proceed to
 Europe by the way of Bombay.

44. Lieutenant MacDermott finding it necessary for the recovery
 of his health to try a change of climate, requested leave to repair to
 Madrass or Bombay, and in case of his not meeting the
Consultation salutary effect, proposed by this change, that he may
16th January resign the Company's service, on signifying his intention
 to the President and Council where he may be, and to return to Europe
 which we have accordingly granted

45. Lieutenant James Dickson whom the late Administration
 formerly recommended to you in a particular manner for his behaviour at

Couch Beyhar, now finds himself reduced to the hard necessity of quitting the service for the present, and returning to Europe in hopes of regaining his health and eyesight, which he lost in the campaign above-mentioned ; we have granted him a passage by the *Bute* and beg leave to recommend him to your favour as an officer and a man well deserving any encouragement which you may be pleased to bestow on him, and that in case of his being ever able to return to his duty, you make him such allowance for the time, and advantages he has lost, as to you may deem just and expedient.

15th December
1774

46. We received a memorial from Ensign Patrick Douglas, claiming rank above Lieutenants Sears, Pemble and Griffiths as he represented that he had been an older officer than either of these at Bombay, but as their appointments to the particular ranks they now hold on this establishment were made by special orders from you, we could not make any alteration in the present rank of Mr. Douglas. He has, therefore, desired leave to resign the service and to take his passage for England by the *Bute* to lay his case before your Honourable Court, and we have accordingly granted him leave.

30th January 1775

47. Lieutenant Robert Rayne represented to us that the urgency of his affairs requires his presence in England and, therefore, requested a leave of absence to proceed there, but as we could not grant him this according to the rules of the service, he has resigned and obtained our leave to embark on the *Pacific*.

6th February

48. We have ordered a passage on these ships on the terms of charterparty for the following discharged soldiers whose passage has been paid for by the Military Paymaster General.

6th February

By the *Bute*

William Macleland
John Fitzgerald
William Glover
Thos. Cox
Robert Flower
Wm. Wessternan
Edward Fowles
John Sulliback
Garret Smith
Henry Lacock
Wm. Stevens
John Reynolds
Francis Nuttal
Wm. Gardner

} Invalids who have obtained certificates for the pension being incapable of further service in India.

By the *Pacific*

Cornelius Gloster
Peter Towers

Saml. Jones	}	Invalided and recommended for the ' pension.
Thos. Cook		
Thos. Marsh		
Zachariah White		
Thos. Clarke		
Willm. Catford		
Richd. Cooper		
Saml. Barnes.		

The time of service of these people will appear on the Consultation referred to in the margin.

49 We have granted bills of exchange by this ship, as per particular register which makes a number in the packet, to the amount of £64,105-12-11 $\frac{1}{4}$, and certificates as per register which also goes a number in the packet, for current rupees 5,292-13-3.

50. The balance in the General Treasury this day is current rupees 14,79,832-1. In the *Khalsa* Treasury *sicca* rupees 18,78,064-13-15 and in the Cash current rupees 1,45,433-12-9.

Fort William,
the 24th February 1775.

We are with respect,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful
humble servants.

25

LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1775

New arrangement of 'Seals' in letters to Court— inquiry into alleged illicit trade on the Bute—prohibitory orders on imports need revision—salaries of Supreme Court officials—limits of Jurisdiction of Supreme Court—expenditure on construction and repair of fortifications and cantonments—country house for Governor General—proposal for establishment of a Board of Ordnance—Maj. Morgan's representation regarding his seniority referred to Court—Babu Hazuri Mal's donation to charities.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The late Council having, on the close of their administration, given you full advices of the proceedings of last year, previous to our arrival, in the form of an annual address, and the frequent occasions we have had since the commencement of ours of writing to you with the circumstantial manner, in which we have continued in our letters the advices of every occurrence in this Department, does not leave us subject for the different heads which you have prescribed for the annual address,

and indeed the manner we have adopted, and mean to pursue, of advising fully by each ship, will necessarily preclude us from using that form, we, therefore, proceed in this to give you the detail of our proceedings, since our last of the 24th ultimo which was sent in duplicate the *Bate* and *Pacifick*.

2. We think however it may not be improper to submit to your consideration some remarks on the antient form, which were it not superseded in the manner we have mentioned, would still, we apprehend, require to be greatly altered in the present circumstance of your administration here.

The heads prescribed are,

1st of shipping.

2nd goods from Europe, or from one part of India to another.

3rd investment.

4th trade of India, transaction with country governments and European nations.

5th fortifications, buildings and revenues.

6th and 7th covenanted servants and accounts.

8th charter.

The 2nd now falls chiefly under the Board of Trade.

The 3rd is entirely with them except such general advice as will not form a head; and your orders as we understand will be conveyed separately to them through us.

The 4th will fall entirely into the Secret Department.

The 5th fortifications and buildings will be chiefly continued in the Proceedings of Inspection.

The revenues have been long in a separate and distinct department.

The 8th chiefly referred to the Mayor's Court. The present Court of Judicature has not the same dependance or connection with us.

3. By this review it will be seen that the three great branches of investment, revenue and the Secret Department absorb the chief of the business which can be reduced to regular heads, and as the advices on them are kept totally separate these heads in the Publick Department letter become useless.

4. If therefore we find it expedient or necessary, in the mode we have adopted, of keeping up a regular succession and compleat advices by each ship to arrange them under heads in the Publick Department we propose they shall stand in the following manner.

1st shipping

2nd trade of India, inland and foreign

3rd inspection

4th company's servants and accounts

5th miscellaneous.

5. By this ship, the *Anson*, we transmit you the annual books of this Presidency closed up to the 30th of last April together with our proceedings and other papers for the last year.

6. The cargoe laden on board the *Anson*, amounts as per invoices, to current rupees 13,34,000.

7. The original charterparty of this ship is sent a number in the packet.

8. The *Bute* and *Pacifick*, which ships carried our last letter of the 24th ultimo in duplicate, sailed from Ingilloe the 3rd and the latter left the pilot in deep water on the 5th March. We understand they were both together at that time, but have no notice of this kind from Captain Bendy.

9. The *Northumberland* being unladen we still propose as promised to the Fort St. George Presidency to dispatch her immediately to their disposal, but as we find by the report from the Board of Trade that they have a large quantity of goods in the warehouse, which for want of a conveyance would remain there, untill the next shipping. We thought it expedient, in order to lighten the cargoes of that season, to order an assortment of the finest and least bulky goods, at the option of the Board of Trade, to the value of 5 lacs of rupees to be sent by the *Northumberland* from hence and we expect that she will be able to sail in a few days ; we have advised the Presidency of Fort St. George of this resolution.

10. In the course of this season have arrived from Europe the following ships, and have been bestowed as marked below.

The *Speke* arrived here the 21st July was dispatched to Fort St. George 15 December 1774.

Sea Horse 1st August dispatched to Fort St. George 28th December.

Asia 18th August was reported unfit for service 28th October, and dismissed the Company's service.

Dutton 29th August dispatched to Europe with General Letters dated 4th January 1775.

Bute 29th August dispatched 24th February with letters of that date.

British King from Bombay 5th September received into the service 12th September, dispatched for England 6th December with general letters from this Board dated 21st November and from the late administration dated 17th October 1774.

Pacifick 15th September, dispatched with the *Bute*, and carries duplicates of the papers sent by her.

Ashburnham 19th October, sold in the country.

Anson 19th October sold in the same manner, taken up at freight 30th January 1775 and now dispatched with the annual Papers.

11. The Presidency of Bombay, in compliance with our request, have lately furnish'd us with extracts of your several orders to them respectig their Marine establishment, and we propose to proceed on these grounds as soon as we can find leisure from business, of more material consequence, to form such regulations in our offices of Marine Paymaster and Master Attendant as may appear to us best adopted to the benefit of the service and the publick.

12. They have likewise transmitted to us copies of several questions proposed by Captain Roche to be put to Alexander Maglashan, late servant

to Captain Fergusson relating to the unhappy affair between them, Mr. Maglashan has delivered his answers on oath, to each of these questions, and as Captain Roche has been sent to Europe from Bombay we take this opportunity of forwarding them to you according to their desire.

13. By the last advices sent you from the late Government, you were informed of the notice which had been intimated to them of illicit trade on board the *Bute* and of the orders which they had in consequence issued to the Custom Master. From his report, referred to in the margin, it appears that no other articles have been imported from that ship than the kinds which are generally brought by all the Indiamen and he refers for particulars to the books of his office, a copy of which makes a number in the book packet.

14. Upon this subject we venture to offer to your consideration whether any prohibitory orders respecting the import trade of this country can be carried into effect and if carried into effect whether they would not throw that trade, into the hands of the foreign nations, our rivals, since they import on their ships every article which you interdict to your officers and not only gain the profit of the trade but also acquire by many articles, such as arms and military stores, a connection and influence with the country powers which has an immediate effect of lessening yours. We believe we might quote a remarkable instance of this in the connection which the French, chiefly by these means, have established with Hyder Ally on the coast of Malabar as is strongly represented to us in the letter from the Presidency of Bombay recorded on the proceedings of the Secret Department of the 8th instant. These sentiments are so different from what has been usually expressed on this subject that it is with great diffidence we lay them before you but we conceive it to be of that importance as to require your deliberate investigation and decision upon it.

15. Agreeable to the orders contained in the 10th paragraph of your letter, dated the 30th March, we made a demand upon the Society of Trade for the amount of the interest, on the several arrears of duties, which were due from them and which are now paid up; on receipt of their answer to this demand we shall proceed to take such steps for the recovery of the ballance as may seem most adviseable.

16. It is our intention to take up, as soon as possible, the paragraphs of your letters which remain to be noticed and issue the necessary orders in consequence. Hitherto the weight of other business which has been exceedingly great, as will appear from the voluminous proceedings in our different departments, has not put it in our power to consider them all.

17. Since our last we opened and took into consideration 15 proposals which had been delivered in for the army contract, and finding those of Mr. E. D. Johnson to be the lowest, we agreed to enter into a new contract with him for the ensuing year, but as Mr. Johnson represented that it would require 2 months for him to provide the necessary articles, at the different stations of the army,

8th March

before he could commence upon his contract, we offered to the attornies of the late contractor to continue the execution of the present, upon as further extention to the end of May to which they agreed.

18. In this packet we send you an account of all the publick sales which have been made this year for the Company, an abstract of them with the letter to us from the auctioneer, will be found in Consultation 8th instant.

19. We have made a final distribution of the balance which remained to be drawn for to compleat the remittance of £1,80,000 and in it have included the Chief Justice and other Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature; a particular register of these bills amounting to £12,544-5 makes a number in the packet as does one of the certificates granted amounting to current rupees 34,697-6.

20. In our proceedings are entered the tables of fees and salaries for the officers and servants of the Supreme Court of Judicature, as settled by the Chief Justice and Judges and allowed by us according to the act of Parliament and Charter of Justice.

6th March

21. It appearing to the Board on the first application from the Judges that the salaries were too high, and that consistent with your recommendations, to pay the greatest attention to frugality in settling them, we could not acquiesce in them, untill such time as we should be furnished with information as to the amount of the fees which each officer might receive. We proposed to leave them undetermined till we should receive those lights, and in the meantime we agreed to allow the officers to the amount of 2/3rds of their salaries. on account, for their subsistence but this offer the Supreme Court rejected, representing their officers would be in the greatest distress without them and insisting upon a positive assent or refusal otherwise that it would be an obstruction of justice which would lay with us. In these circumstances we saw no alternative left and we agreed to pass their fees and salaries implicitly as in the tables given in.

22. We hoped to have informed you by this ship of the line having been drawn the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Judicature and that of the country courts and to have given you our opinion of its probable effects but this still remains undecided. We understand, however, that the Supreme Court have declared peremptorily any other criminal jurisdiction existing in Calcutta than that established by the Charter, but whether their civil jurisdiction is to exist exclusively in the same limits or whether it is to extend to the *dewans*, officers and dependants of the *Dewan ny* throughout the provinces, remains yet for decision. We apprehend if it is determined for the extention that the consequences may prove hurtful to the collections, and even if the jurisdiction is confined to Calcutta, that great embarrassment will accrue thereby to the management of the revenues, as this city being the seat of government and center of the collections becomes occasionally the resort of every man of rank and substance in the country, these considerations we submit to you in the meantime and will take care to advise you of the ultimate decision of the Court on these points as soon as it is declared.

23. Our employment in this Department has hitherto been principally confined to the expence of your publick buildings with a view to limit them to the annual sum, which you have thought proper to confirm by your instructions of the 29th March 1774, of one hundred thousand pounds sterling. In the expenditure of this sum the defence of the New Fort has been first considered, and the medium expence, as you will have observed by our proceedings already transmitted, to you having been reduced by the late Governor and Council to the annual amount prescribed by orders, we have, in consequence of a representation laid before us by the Chief Engineer and an estimate of the expence prepared by him in pursuance of our directions, reducing the amount within six lacks of rupees, authorized the execution of such works as appeared to us to be absolutely necessary for the defence of the place, and most immediately requisite for the accommodation of the garrison.

24. The works which we have directed the Chief Engineer to begin upon are the execution of Vansittart's Ravelin, the barracks before the Plassey Gate and the artillery store rooms. We judged it proper to suspend the facing of the redans to the side of the river, which you have been advised had fallen down, until we find that we can consistently with your orders expend the whole sum proposed by the Chief Engineer to be allotted for the annual expence, and we are under the less apprehension respecting the repair of this work for the reasons assigned by the late Board, in their address of the 17th October.

25. The establishment of artificers and workmen which was fixed by the late Board of Inspection in their proceedings of the 17th June 1773, amounting to current rupees 16,165-4 per mensem, has been confirmed by us for the monthly expence of the works, we have now ordered to be carried on, and the Chief Engineer has been directed to conform himself strictly thereto. We have it in view to reduce this establishment still more, unless the Chief Engineer shall assign to us, good and sufficient reasons for the continuance of some expences, we have referred to him for this purpose.

26. In consequence of the orders contained in the latter part of the 29th paragraph of your instructions of the 29th March the Chief Engineer received our direction to deliver to us a very exact and particular account of the expenditure of the sum allotted for the expence of the fortifications, with his sentiments and observations on the state of the works to be transmitted you by every opportunity.

27. The situation of the cantonments of Chitpore having been represented to us, to be so very unhealthy as to render the *sepoys*, cantoned there, almost unfit for any kind of service we directed the Chief Engineer and Quarter Master General to look out for another place fit for *sepoys* cantonments, and to present to us an estimate of the expence which would be incurred by the removal of them to another situation. The plan and estimate which were submitted to us, in conse-

quence of (*sic*) the Quarter Master General, meeting with our approbation, we authorized the execution of the former and the cantonments are now

erecting on a healthy spot, at a convenient distance from
2nd February Calcutta, we beg leave to point out to your notice the reports which were laid before us from the officer commanding at Chitpore and from the Assistant Surgeon relative to the unhealthy situation of this place, which you will find recorded on the proceedings of the Board of Inspection of the 28th January, and we hope that the measure we have taken will meet with your approbation.

28. From the multiplicity of other business of more immediate concern we have not been able to take into consideration the proposals which were suspended by the late Board for our determination for contracting for a term of years for the repairs of the cantonments of Burrampore and Dinapore. We mean, however, to consider them
28th January immediately after the dispatch of this ship, and to put this
9th February article of expence upon a certain and fixed establishment.

In the interim we have authorized some few repairs which were represented to us to be necessary to the cantonments at Dinapore to prevent a future encrease of expence.

29. You will find recorded upon the proceedings of the Board of Inspection a minute laid before us by the Governor General relating to his accommodation with houses, in consequence of the 32nd
28th January article of your instructions, which minute he thought
9th February necessary for your information by the latter ships of the season. We, therefore, beg leave to point out it to your notice and at the same time to acquaint you of our acquiescence to the proposition it contained of allowing the Governor General an yearly rent for the country house he purchased equal to the common interest (10 per cent) of the purchase money until your directions on this head can be received with which we request to be favoured.

30. The orders contained in the 28th paragraph of your instructions we found had been long since anticipated by the late Board and carried
Military Regulations by them into execution, new establishments and regula-
Consultation 7th tions having been formed for the *lascars*, draft bullocks,
and Board of Ins- boats, contracts and fixed contingent military expences
pection Proceedings which at the same time that they retrenched the expence
10th March 1774 & co. attendantion each article and confined it within fixed
boursds pointed out the causes to which the former excess was owing.

31. Your Board of Inspection still continue to take cognizance of the military expences under these regulations, and they hope that the attention they have paid to this branch of your affairs will not escape your observation, for the particulars of which they beg leave to referr you to their proceedings at large.

32. As the factories are, by your instructions, put under the immedi-
9th February ate controul and superintendence of the Board of Trade we
issued orders to the several commercial chiefs and resi-

dents, to transmit their accounts in future to them by whom they will now be audited, and we have for their guidance furnished them with copies of the establishments which were fixed for each respective factory requesting they would only be pleased to deliver to us an account monthly of the ballance of their treasury and of all their factories.

33. The Import and Export Warehousekeepers have in like manner been directed to send their monthly accounts in future to the Board of Trade, and the establishments for these offices have been also delivered to them.

34. The examination of the accounts of the civil offices at the presidency, which was the duty of the Comptroller, has been suspended since the departure of Mr. Graham; we have not yet determined whether this duty shall be performed by one of the members of the present administration but we shall take an early opportunity of taking this subject into consideration so that the good effects which were expected from the institution of this office may not be defeated. We have the pleasure to transmit you a number in the book packet a compleat diary of the proceedings of the Comptroller for the last year.

35. General Clavering has laid before the Board two minutes, one proposing a plan for the establishment of a Board of Ordnance to controul the issues and expenditure of all military stores and the other regulating the mode of carrying on the works in the new forts, the former of these you will find recorded in the Consultation referred to in the margin, the other is before the Board of Inspection but has not yet been recorded.

36. Mr. Francis has also delivered his sentiments, in two different minutes, on the coinage and on the weights and measures of this country. These will be found recorded in the same Consultation as the above.

37. We shall take these several minutes into consideration as early as possible after the dispatch of this ship.

38. Major Morgan has applied to us stating his case, as represented to your Honourable Court in England, in a joint memorial with Major Watson and observing that as most of the field officers now on this establishment are affected by his claims on which you direct that they should sit, by having been restored to the service above him and the few officers whose superior rank prevents their becoming parties are divided with the brigades which they command. It would be improper to call on the first and inconvenient to the service to assemble the last, on a court of inquiry and, therefore, he requested that his case might be referred back to your decision. His reasons appear to us conclusive, we beg leave to refer back his case to your consideration requesting to be favoured with your ultimate decision upon it.

39. We have received a long representation from Lieutenant Colonel Muir of the hardships which he had sustained from a supercession so long ago as the year 1758 by the removal of

Captain Gowen from Bombay to this establishment, that he had gone to England to seek redress from the Court of Directors and had accordingly preferred his petition to them but that at that time could not procure any determination he, therefore, is now induced to renew his claim, and we transmit it to you referring it to your favourable consideration.

40. Major Wim. Jolley has also presented a memorial to us, setting forth the services he has rendered to the Company since they first employed him on the coast of Sumatra, in support of which
11th March he has produced several vouchers, we beg leave to recommend the whole to your consideration, and if you should deem him deserving of any particular indulgence that you will give us directions in what manner to shew it to him.

41. Lieutenant John Mattocks whom you were pleased to restore to the service in the year 1771 with loss of rank, and who accepted of it in hopes to obtain his former rank through the indulgence of the Company and forgiveness of his former error, which was only being concerned in the resignation, finding himself hitherto disappointed in his hopes and left in the disagreeable situation of being commanded by officers much his juniors, without any near prospect of promotion, has petitioned us for leave to resign the service, which we have granted him accordingly.

42. Captain John Wedderburn, after a course of eleven years service, has been reduced by continual illness and the loss of constitution to solicit the pension established for officers rendered unfit for further duty in India and having produced the certificates of several surgeons as to his state of health and taken the oath of property he is permitted to return to Europe, this season, to lay claim to it.

43. Captain Robert Patton having obtained our permission to resign his commission in the Company's service and to return to Europe for the recovery of his health, which has of late been frequently attacked by severe fits of illness, now takes passage with his family by the *Anson*.

44. Mrs. Mapletoft with her grand daughter, a child, and her daughter Mrs. Wynne with two children are also permitted to embark for England on this ship.

45. Mr. Charles Fleetwood has petitioned us for leave to resign the service and to go to Europe for the benefit of his health which we have accordingly granted, and he is a passenger on this ship.

46. Messrs. C. L. Goodwin and J. Lowder have received our licence for proceeding to Europe by the *Anson* as has also Mrs. Geary, Mrs. Wattel and Mrs. Thompson, each of these ladies take with them two children.

47. Mr. Alexr. Carnegy, Assistant Surgeon, and Ensign Thomas Pattinson. finding it necessary to return to Europe for the benefit of their health, we have permitted them to resign the service, and to go in the *Anson*.

48. The indemnification bonds executed by the above passengers for their servants are sent numbers in the packet.

49. The following discharged soldiers, having served their contracted terms and being unwilling to enter into new engagements, are ordered on board the *Anson* as charterparty passengers. The Captain has been paid here the amount of their passage money.

Timothy Prior	Serjeant Major
John Willoughby	} Serjeants
Donald Campbell	
George Sinclair	
Geo. Wilson	
Wm. Mascal	Bombadier
Garrot Hatt	} Private
Jas. Richardson	
Wm. King	
Abra. Hendrick	
Robt. S. Bate	Lieutenant
James Knight—Gunner	} Artillery
James Doy —Matross	
Thos. Dawson—Private	} Infantry
Peter Goodhall—do	
Derick Hendrick—do	
James Hudson—do	
James Wallace	

50. Since the dispatch of the *Pacifick*, we have received certificates for three of the discharged soldiers, who went to Europe in that ship to entitle them to receive the pension, we, therefore, forward them by the present dispatch.

51. Baboo Huzzooremull, a principal inhabitant of this place, has sent in a chest said to contain 3,000 rupees which he intends as a charitable donation to be divided equally between the Magdalen and the Foundling, requesting that we would send it by this ship, we accordingly forward it with the packets by the *Anson*, under your address and request that you will give orders for the payment of the amount to the respective charities, a bill of lading for it will be taken and transmitted by the person who dispatches the ship.

52. The ballance in our General Treasury this day amounts to current rupees 18,12,220-3-9 exclusive of the money received from Suja Dowlah, and not yet brought to credit being rupees of sorts 35,00,000. In the *Khalsa* Treasury current rupees 13,71,354-12, and in the Cash current rupees 45,525-8-6.

Fort William,
24th March 1775.

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants.

Postscript

1. Since writing the above the Board of Trade have sent in their address to you by this dispatch, as it contains some objections to our conduct, we think it necessary to accompany it with the following remarks.

2. We cannot acquiesce in the representation they are pleased to make on the removal of some servants from their department who had been comprehended in their first selection of which we approved. The fact is that to facilitate as much as possible the carrying of their establishment into execution we approved of their choice of servants without examination into the circumstances of the individuals so chosen, not meaning, however, to preclude ourselves from listening to the representation of particular hardships which any of the gentlemen might suffer by the change. In fact we found that some few of them had been removed from better situations or from such as they were better qualified to be of use in for the Company's business, these we did not fail to call back again from the Commercial Department, but it was before they had been properly received

13th March or had exercised any functions in it. We explained this to the Board of Trade in our letter, referred to in the margin, assuring them that these were the real motives of our conduct and not any disregard to them, that few occasions for such removals would probably occur again, and when they did we should always pay great attention to their objections, but that we could not agree in opinion with them, that we had no right to remove servants from their department without their consent, on the contrary we deemed that right to be clearly vested in us. This is the true state of the question between us on this head on which you will decide. As to the clause in their letter about servants suspended, we only conceive it to be a point in speculation with them, as we do not recollect, that any similar instance actually exists. It is true we did not think it necessary to furnish the Board of Trade with a list of the allowances to the servants in our department for a guidance in the establishment of theirs, because we thought that it was more fit, that it should be founded on reasons drawn from their own situation than from any comparison with ours. The chief part of the servants in our department, are absolutely prohibited from trade, and in the publick offices where any [] has been made, the constant occupation of the assistant will form an exclusion almost as strong as a prohibitory law. We do not agree with the Board of Trade, that smallness of salaries, is an obstruction of their assistants, even being concerned in trade, or that it follows because a young man finds difficulty in procuring money to spend he will not be able to obtain credit in trade; on the whole, we have not objected to their additional allowances, and it is now before you for approval.

Fort William,
27th March, 1775.

LETTER DATED 6 APRIL 1775

Reprehensible conduct of Capt. Tryon's in respect of Anson's despatch.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We have already addressed you by the *Anson* under date the 24th ultimo, but as we find that this ship must necessarily be detained some days to replace her anchors and cables from which she parted in a very hard gale of wind which has happened here since that dispatch, we take this opportunity of transmitting you copies of such information as we have received from our officers down the river on this subject with the Deputy Master Attendant's protest and our several opinions upon it to which we beg leave to refer you for particulars.

2. We think it, however, necessary to observe that the chief cause of the danger and delay which the *Anson* has been exposed to appears, to us, to have arisen from Captain Tryon's refusing to supply her with an anchor and cable which he had on board a sloop in Ingellee creek although the Deputy Master Attendant offered repeatedly to convey them to the ship. The consequence of this refusal, was that after making a signal of distress the pilot found himself under the necessity of cutting the sheet cable by which she was then anchored at Ingellee and running the ship as far up as Kedgree, this he accomplished in the spring tides but refused to take charge of her down again until she should be lightened to the draft of 17 feet water only. We gave immediate directions to the Master Attendant to send down sloops for the purpose of taking out such a quantity of the private trade as to reduce her to that draft of water and gave orders accordingly to Mr. Bruere who was down with the packets.

3. Although we deem the conduct of Captain Tryon to be very reprehensible as well in this instance as in having overloaded the ship with his private trade to the exclusion of a part of the Company's cargo, which appears by the letter from the Board of Trade to have been returned to them, yet we have only thought proper to express our displeasure to him, through Mr. Bruere, leaving it to you to take such further measures against Captain Tryon as you may think his behaviour deserves.

4. Captain Robert Brooke has represented to us that his constitution is much impaired from ten years constant service, in the field, at this place, and upon the coast, he has, therefore, requested and obtained our permission to resign the Company's service and to take his passage by the *Anson*.

5. Mrs. and Miss Tryon have also been granted leave to proceed to England on board the *Anson*. A list of these passengers who applied since the close of our former packet is herewith transmitted you.

Fort William,
6th April, 1775.

We are with respect,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful,
humble servants.

27

LETTER DATED 16 MAY 1775

Difference with the Board of Trade regarding size of this year's investment—objection to Board of Trade's entering into contract with a servant of the Company—the promised remittance of specie to Bombay completed—opium despatched to Balambangan—Board of Ordnance established—plans for office to regulate publick works—representation regarding emoluments of captains doing duty in regiments—office of Comptroller of Offices revived—Robertson appointed Surgeon at Calcutta—inquiry into the accounts of Mr. Bergh, Paymaster of 2nd Brigade—allegations against Lieut. Macleod.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The *Anson* by which ship we addressed you under dates 24th and 27th March and 10th April, left the pilot in 35 fathom water on the 23rd April.

2 We now have the honour to close our advices to you of this season by the *Northumberland*.

3. This ship, as we formerly acquainted you, was destined to receive her cargo at Fort St. George and to be finally dispatched, from that place but on a representation from Captain Rees of the difficulty of carrying her out of the river and getting clear of the bay at this late season we thought proper to take the opinions of the Master Attendant and some of the most experienced commanders in the country service, upon that head. From their answers we found that it would be more easy for her to effect a passage directly to Europe and at the same time more expeditious than to proceed first to Madrass, and as there were goods in the warehouse more than the amount required to complete her lading here, we directed the Board of Trade to complete it without delay and change her destination as above related.

4. In consequence of the disappointment which the Madrass Presidency will sustain from this alteration, we have resolved to allow them an additional ship from those expected to arrive in the course of this season, and we propose, therefore, to furnish them with three entire ships.

5. The value of the cargo on board the *Northumberland* as per invoice sent in by the Board of Trade and transmitted in the packet with the other dispatches from them amounts to current rupees 14,51,000.

6. Since our last advices we have received from the Board of Trade an estimate of the advances which they required for the provision of this year's investment amounting to current rupees 83,70,858-12-6, including the factory charges which by the same estimation amounts to current rupees 2,33,316-7.

7. As we thought we could not allow less than two ships to the Madrass Presidency, of the six destined for Coast and Bay, and understanding the amount of goods then in the warehouse to be about 26 lacs of rupees we could not properly give our consent to the provision of an investment which would so much surpass the means to be expected for transporting it and of course render a great part of it liable to perish in the warehouses. We, therefore, acquainted the Board of Trade that we must limit our advances for the investment to seventy lacs including the goods already in store which quantity would furnish ample cargoes for four ships at 14 lacs for each ship and leave the amount of a fifth cargo for the next season or to be conveyed by any additional tonnage which we might receive from Bombay, and we directed them to correct their estimate accordingly.

8. The Board of Trade demonstrated against this resolution and proposed the alternative of selling whatever surplus of goods might be left at the end of the season, but as we saw no motive to induce us to change our opinion, we sent them a repetition of our orders for a fresh estimate forme upon the above limitation. However, instead of complying they thought proper to address us objecting to our right, from the 17th paragraph of your instructions, to limit their investment in any case, but from an insufficiency of our finances to comply with their requisitions, but they offered to reduce the amount to current rupees 62,97,913, exclusive of the quantity of goods which would remain in the warehouse after completing the cargo of the *Northumberland* and declared their intention to protest against us for all the damages which might accrue to the Company by our refusal to furnish them to this extent.

9. As the change in the destination of the *Northumberland* determined us to replace her to the Fort St. George Presidency, which would of course diminish the number of ships to be dispatched from Bengal, we resolved for the purpose of aiding the Board of Trade in the remittance of the investment, and in order to divide the risk more equally between the two Presidencies, that a reserve should be left in each of the vessels intended for Madrass for 50 tons of Bengal fine goods, however, it did not appear

to us expedient to allow any encrease to the 70 lacks which we had at first proposed and therefore gave notice to the Board of Trade that we could give orders for advancing to that amount at the different factories proportioned to the estimate delivered in, and that as to the meaning and extent of our instructions did not think proper to enter into a disagreeable discussion with them upon the subject but that we should hold ourselves accountable only to you for our interpretation of them and that it appeared highly improper for us to lay before them a statement of our finances.

10. Finding that a contract had been entered into for a part of the Cossimbuzar investment with Mr. Rider, one of your covenanted servants, we conceived it our duty to quote to the Board of Trade a standing order of the Court of Directors, dated 23rd March 1759, which prohibits any such engagements and at the same time called upon them for a list of all their contracts in order to know whether any other European or any other *banian* besides the Governor General's (who by the estimate which they had sent in it appeared held a contract for piece goods in the name of his son) had any contracts. We shall defer saying any thing further upon the subject until we receive the list.

11. We have also further to remark that they have not yet delivered in a copy of any part of their proceedings notwithstanding we have repeatedly required them so that we must in like manner be silent on that head.

12. In April last the Board of Trade applied to us for guards of *sepoys* to be stationed at the *aurungs* for the protection of the investment at those places, but as we judged it would be detrimental to the service to disperse the troops in this manner we recommended it to them to employ *burgundasses* in that business.

13. We have compleated the remittance of 15 lacs promised for the last year to the Presidency of Bombay and bills are daily coming in from that place and Surat. they having been granted as we understand to a considerable value in part of the present year's supply. The exchange at the former is 97 rupees for 100 *sicca* and at the latter 90 rupees per 100 *sicca* rupees.

14. We have lately dispatched for Balambangan on the *Dolphin* frigate, which the Commodore Sir Edward Hughes furnished us for that purpose, 491 chests of opium invoiced at current rupees 2,86,503-1, and as we had not for a long time received any intelligence from that settlement, we repeated our desire to be made acquainted with the particular state of their trade and the success of their establishment. We also desired Sir John Clarke the commander of the *Dolphin* to furnish us with such observations on these points, at his return, as he might be able to form.

15. Mr. Keir having informed us that his house would be ready for the reception and accomnodation of the Supreme Court of Justice, on the 15th instant. we have accordingly agreed to commence the lease from that

period, on the conditions already advised, advancing the rent in quarterly payments.

16. We transmit, numbers in the packet, the plan formed by our Chief Engineer for a new court house of the dimensions required by the Supreme Court in the list of apartments which they delivered in to the Board. This plan is accompanied by an estimate of the charge of erecting it amounting to *Arco*t rupees 1,76,610.9.7; you will also receive another plan drawn by Mr. Tiretta, an architect in this settlement, with an estimate amounting to *Arco*t rupees 3,65,574. We shall wait your orders respecting the execution of this building

17. We mentioned in our last a minute laid before the Board by
3rd April General Clavering proposing the establishment of a Board of Ordnance for the controul of all military stores and ordnance. We have since unanimously approved of the plan, which it contained, and have established a board accordingly.

18. The proceedings of the Board of Inspection since the dispatch
Board of Inspection of the *Arson* are transmitted you a number in the book packet together with the duplicate compleat sett from our first assembling in this department to the end of last year.

19. You will have perused on these proceedings an address laid before us by the Superintendent of the Powder Works in which he represented the inconveniences attending and the danger to be apprehended
2nd February from the present situation of the Powder Works, accompanied with a proposal for their removal to a place more retired and unfrequented. This opinion was also confirmed by the reports of the Chief Engineer and Quarter Master General, who equally recommended the expediency of the measure for the reasons set forth in their separate addresses to General Clavering as recorded in the proceedings referred to.

20. The Superintendent soon after laid before us an estimate of the expence which would attend the erection of these new works, which appearing to us moderate, we mean to authorize him to carry it into
6th April execution as soon as he shall have fixed on a proper spot of ground for that Purpose which is proposed to be on the opposite side of the River to Calcutta, and we have reason to believe that the step we have been induced to take will not be the occasion of incurring a great expence as the present buildings will sell for a considerable sum.

21 In consequence of a representation from the officer commanding at Chunar we have been induced to authorize some considerable repairs to
6th April be made at that garrison the particulars of which and the necessity for them are set forth in Lieutenant Colonel Muir's letter to General Clavering recorded in our Proceedings together with an estimate of the expence with which they will be attended.

22. Some repairs have also been authorized at the garrison of Mongheer, but we have given orders that they be made in the most frugal manner.
13th April

23. In pursuance of our intentions to take into consideration the proposals, which had been presented to the late Board for contracting for a term of years for the repairs of the cantonments of Burhampore and Dinapore, we met for that purpose, on the 20th ultimo but as some new proposals have been received and the subject seems to require further consideration we have not as yet come to any resolution respecting them.

24. Two separate plans for the regulating the publick works, particularly those carrying on in the New Fort, having been submitted to us, the one by General Clavering the other by Major Tolley; we referred them both to the consideration of the Board of Ordnance, desiring their opinion on the expediency of creating an office agreeably to the proposition contained in either one or the other or both the plans.
6th April

25. We have not yet received their answer respecting them, nor the establishment they may submit, in consequence, for our final determination, but the opinions (as members of the Board of Ordnance) of the Commissary General, Chief Engineer and Commandant of Artillery on the appointment proposed by Major Tolley of an Inspector General of Civil and Military Buildings having been communicated to us for our perusal, we did not think, upon mature consideration of the subject, that it would be adviseable to create such an office.

26. The same reasons which induced us to decline the plan proposed by Major Tolley of appointing an Inspector General of Civil and Military Buildings operated equally with respect to a further proposal made by him of establishing the office of a Surveyor General of the Ordnance, but as the former of these plans appears to contain some useful propositions, we beg leave to point it out to your observation, although we doubt not that they will be comprehended in the establishment which we have required from the Board of Ordnance.
20th April

27. We request your attention to a representation, which you will find recorded on our proceedings, from the captains of the first regiment on the subject of the insufficiency of the income of captains doing duty in the regiments and the disproportion it bears to that of the other classes of officers. You will observe that the articles on which they ground their claim, are the disproportion of the extra allowances and the distribution of the off reckoning fund, but as we did not consider it in our power to alter the establishment by an addition of pay without your express orders, we request to receive your instructions on the subject of their address having informed them that it is referred for your determination.
27th April

28. Agreeably to what we advised you in our address per *Anson* we have taken into consideration the establishment of the office of Comptroller of the Offices at the Presidency
4th May

and resolved on reviving it, the three junior members of the Board having severally undertaken this charge each for 3 months beginning with Mr. Francis.

29. We send you by this packet authenticated copies of the proceedings of courts martial, which have come before us since our last. The sentence of death pronounced against Jagernaut *sepo*y was carried into execution at Chitpore on Saturday 15th April, and that on Mathew Stevens and William Dolbins was carried into execution against the former, on whom the lott fell on the same morning.

30. Mr. James Robertson applied to us to be admitted a surgeon upon this establishment and produced a counterpart of the covenant which he had executed in England, also a certificate of his qualification from the persons whom you have appointed for the examination of all candidates for your service in that line. Mr. Robertson's appointment was not mentioned in any of the letters received from you, but these documents appearing authentic, we conceived that his not being mentioned must have been a mere omission of office and consequently complied with his request. We also appointed him to a vacancy in the hospital which he solicited.

31. Mr. Murchison made an application to us, some time after, to be also received into the service and produced a certificate of his examination before the surgeons appointed for that purpose but not having executed any covenants we considered his case different from Mr. Robertson's, and as there was then no vacancy we did not comply with his request.

32. Agreeably to your orders of the 30th March 1774, we settled the list of field officers within the establishment, who were or had been entitled to share the commission on the revenues, and accordingly made a distribution in their favour not only of the sums then due but also of the amount which had been retained as a deposit in the treasury from the proportions formerly allotted to the supernumeraries of that rank.

33. On a representation from the Commander-in-Chief of the hardship complained of by the captain lieutenants of artillery in being superceded in point of rank by the promotion of every lieutenant of infantry to the commission of a captain, and that in the King's service it was usual for them to bear the same rank as captains of infantry, we resolved that they should have rank in the army accordingly from that day and that all captain lieutenants hereafter appointed should rank in the same manner according to the dates of their commissions. We must observe that there is no additional expence to the Company by this regulation.

34. We some time ago called upon Mr. Burgh Paymaster of the 2nd Brigade for his accounts compleated up to the latest period, to enable us to form an idea of the exact sum requisite for the expences of a brigade out of the provinces and to ascertain the state of the subsidy paid by

the Nabob, particularly because we found that bills to the amount of several lacks of rupees had been drawn on the Paymaster General for the disbursements of that brigade, but were not able to obtain the necessary satisfaction from him.

35. We were the more surprized at these drafts of Mr. Burgh's that, by Colonel Gailliez's advices, it appeared, only 34,750 rupees had been drawn for by the Deputy Paymaster who attended the brigade and who had the actual disbursement on the spot of all sums, wanted for its service, finding also from the orders issued by Colonel Gailliez that the troops were in arrears of pay for the months of January, February and March, and it appearing that great arrears of subsidy were due from the Nabob, we thought it necessary to investigate more minutely these transactions, we accordingly wrote to Colonel Gailliez to assemble a board of field officers for enquiring into these transactions, as well respecting the delay of the Nabob's payments, as the arrears to the troops and the accounts, drafts, etc., of the Paymaster with orders to report to us the result of their inquiries. We further ordered Mr. Burgh down to the Presidency from Patna where he had been for some time on account of his health, in order to obtain from him the proper satisfaction respecting his transactions. Part of these resolutions taking rise from Colonel Gailliez's correspondence in the Secret Department, we refer to the Consultations in the margin.

36. Mr. Benjamin Laccam, who has served the Company as Muster Master on the fortification here for 13 years past. finding his constitution much impaired from the nature of the service and that he was unable from long illness to attend to the duties of his office with that zeal which the service requires, has obtained our leave to resign it. He has since delivered in a petition to your Honourable Court which makes a number in the packet. As we find that Mr. Laccam had been four times recommended to your favourable notice as a person well deserving of an appointment on your list of covenanted servants, and knowing him to have enjoyed the reputation of a man of great integrity, and honour and that he has executed the duties of the appointments, which he has held at different times under the Company, with credit and universal approbation, we beg leave to recommend the merits of his petition to your favourable consideration.

37. In a former letter of this season we acquainted you that Mr. Livius having declined to accept the office of Sub Accomptant Mr. Larkins, the Head Assistant, had succeeded to that appointment. We now beg leave to testify our approbation of Mr. Larkin's care and diligence in the execution of this laborious office, in which he has had considerable experience, having gone through the gradations of it, and we are induced for the good of the service to request that you will confirm him in his present appointment. We mean this recommendation not only as an acknowledgement of the merit of Mr. Larkins. but to secure to the Company the services of a man of his assiduity and qualifications, in a line

where peculiar talents and attention are required.

38. Mr. Durham having chose to resign the employment of attorney to the Company, which we informed you of our having given him, upon the consideration of its being incompatible with his duty as an advocate in the Supreme Court, we have appointed Mr. Robert Jarrett to succeed him.

39. About the end of last month the Supreme Court of Judicature referred to us a petition from Munseram and Bissonaut containing sundry charges against Lieutenant Macleod for having plundered their houses and effects, to the amount of a lack of rupees, and committed many acts of cruelty and oppression whilst he commanded a detachment of *sepoys* in Jehangeernapore; in consequence, of allegations of such an extraordinary nature as the above we immediately ordered a court of enquiry to assemble at Burrampore to make a minute and particular investigation of the facts. We shall be determined by the result of the enquiry in our future prosecution of this affair.

40. Mr. James Ford, Surgeon, has prayed us to take into consideration his case and to grant him redress from supercessions which he complains of, but finding that he had repeatedly made similar applications to the late Government and that they had given reasons for setting aside his claim, we did not think proper to comply with them, but resolved to confirm him in the rank which he then held.

41. About the close of our advices by the *Anson* we received information of the death of Mr. John Covert one of your covenanted servants upon this establishment.

42. Mr. Ralph Harding who was formerly a captain upon this establishment and had been dismissed the service, as you were advised by the dispatches of the last season, delivered in a petition similiar to that which we reported to you from him in our letter of 17th October. However, as we found his case already decided, we did not think fit to comply with his request for a trial, and, therefore, agreed to the alternative which he proposed of permitting him to embark for England by the *Northumberland*, and as he was much distressed in his circumstances we have granted him the allowance of a charterparty passenger.

43. Mr. Jacob Rider has desired permission to resign the service and repair to England, whither he is called by the necessity of his affairs, signifying, however, his claim to a restoration should you think proper to grant it. We have permitted him to resign and to proceed by this conveyance.

44. Mr. John Clarke an inhabitant of this settlement is also permitted to take a passage by the *Northumberland*.

45. We have granted certificates to the commander and officers of this ship to the amount of current rupees 7,645-3; a register of them makes a number in the packet.

46. The balance of cash now in the *Khalsa* Treasury is current rupees 5,28,556-5-19-2. In the General Treasury current rupees 8,07,373-

11-6 besides rupees of sorts received from Fyzabad 27,44,733 and in the cash current rupees 50,019-12; besides the above there remains in the mint to be recoined of the specie received from Fyzabad 2,30,300 *sicca* weight.

Fort William,
the 16th May 1775.

We are with respect,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful
humble servants.

28

LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1775

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.
Honourable Sirs,

Having appointed Mr. Walter, a person of high standing in your service, to go on board the *Northumberland* to see her cargo laden with the greatest expedition, he has just reported to us the disrespectful behaviour of Mr. Alexander the Chief Officer on board, and the obstruction he has met with from him, in discharge of that duty, and has sent us the originals of two letters that passed between them. As we think that the terms of Mr. Alexander's letter deserve your notice, we enclose copies of both these papers, referring to your judgement any censure, which you may think proper to pass upon his conduct in this instance.

Fort William,
the 22nd May 1775.

We are,
honourable Sirs & ca.

29

LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1775

Capt. Ree blamed for not clearing Northumberland out of the Hooghly in time—Board of Trade protests against Council's action in limiting investment—Council seeks clarification regarding method of providing investment—Dutch complain of obstructions in their investment—question of re-establishing mints at Patna and Dacca being examined—regarding reduction of bonded debt—Maj. Tolley's proposals (i) to make road from Calcutta to Patna and then to Benares (ii) for a canal from Beliaghata—death of Mr. Burgh, Paymaster of 2nd Brigade—charges against Lieut. Macleod found spurious—Company's servants may enter into contract under certain restrictions.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We have received your commands of the 23rd December last by the *Colebrooke* which arrived 17th ultimo, the *Salisbury* was to follow her in a few days from Madras.

2. Captain Rees of the *Northumberland* not having been able to get his ship out of the river with our former dispatches of the 16th May, on account of the sickness of his people, after a fruitless attempt returned to Kedgerie in June and the southerly monsoon being then thoroughly set in, it was not thought safe he should make a second attempt before this time.

3. In consequence of the ill success of the *Northumberland* we had resolved to dispatch the *Amazon* snow, with the advices of importance, which will be now conveyed to you from the Secret Department, as we judged she would meet with no difficulty in getting out of the river, but finding that it was still uncertain whether she could be able to clear the Bay at that season, and thinking it likely that she would not arrive in England much earlier than the *Northumberland* we determined afterwards not to put the Company to an extraordinary expence on that account, and therefore, countermanded the orders issued for preparing the *Amazon* for this voyage.

4. It appeared from the reports of the Deputy Master Attendant and of Mr. Walters whom we sent down to dispatch the *Northumberland* that Captain Rees was more tardy than he need have been in loading his ship and thereby missed the opportunity of a fair wind in the end of May, which lasted some days, and that he did not make many efforts or shew much inclination to get clear of the river, we suspected that he wished to remain till August when the weather would be favourable for him to go along the Coast of Coromandel and to put into Madras. On this account we have positively forbid him from touching on that coast and have written to the President and Council at Fort St. George in case he should put in there, notwithstanding these orders, to remove him from the command of his ship.

5. We shall not pass a judgement upon the conduct of Captain Rees on this occasion, and as it would take up too much room in a General Letter to mention all that has been said on this subject by Mr. Walters and the Captain we beg leave to refer to the Consultations noted in the margin.

6. The Presidency of Fort St. George being desirous of sending away a ship in October and apprehending that the late arrivals from England might put it out of our power, to supply them with one in time for so early a dispatch, we have permitted them to detain one of the vessels destined for this place. We have also ordered the *Colebrooke* immediately to get ready to return there agreeable to your orders.

7. A letter which we have received from Captain Tryon, dated 14th May in No. latitude 7.25 informs us that soon after the *Anson* had left the

pilot they discovered that she had lost 11 feet of her rudder by an accident which befell her in quitting the river; they had, however, proceeded into the above latitude and proposed to put into Acheen or Batavia to repair it.

8. We have received from Bombay the two pilot schooners which we had applied for to that Presidency and we had advice by
31st May the first that the ten lacks of specie which we dispatched by the *Sea Horse* had arrived in good season.

9. We have discharged bills drawn on us from that Presidency since 16th May, when our last letter to you was dated to the amount of *sicca* rupees 1,26,964-15-9.

10. Instead of 491 chests of opium sent by the *Dolphin* man-of-war to the settlement at Balambangan, as advised in our former letter, there was only shipped 380 by this ship as the remainder could not reach *Dolphin* in time to be received on board. We look upon this as a fortunate
22nd May circumstance not only on account of your orders for retrenching the supplies to that place but because by a letter since received, we are informed that most of the goods formerly sent there remain still unsold. The Chief and Council there have nevertheless desired us to send a small quantity of goods for which they have indented to meet a vessel at Madrass, in July, but as this indent did not arrive with us till 17th of that month it was impossible to comply with their request.

11. It is necessary to acquaint you in addition to our last advices that the Board of Trade on our refusal to encrease our advances for the investment of this next season beyond 70 lacs of rupees remonstrated, in the strongest terms, upon the embarrassment they must suffer from being
22nd May obliged to contradict the orders which they had already given for the provision of goods and to deviate from engagements positively entered into and that in fact it would throw the whole business of their department into confusion, they stated at the same time the detriment inevitably consequent from the manufactures for which money in part had been previously advanced remaining unfinished for want of means to compleate those advances in due proportions.

12. As the arrangements made by the Board of Trade, prior to having received any promise from us to grant them so large advances, had brought them into this predicament rather than subject the service to the inconveniences, which they apprehended, we consented to yield to their solicitations for an increase of four lacs but gave them to understand that as we did not mean, without your express authority, to admit of any extraordinary tonnage, being taken up for transporting the investment we left them solely responsible for any surplus quantity of goods which might remain on their hands at the end of the season.

13. We have been furnished by them with copies of the several contracts now existing in their Department, in consequence of our application to them for that purpose, but as a doubt has arisen whether you mean, by the 36th paragraph of your instructions, to direct that the

provision of your investment as well as other services shall be performed by contract and if such contracts shall be formed and concluded by the Board of Trade without our concurrence, which has been the case since the establishment of that Board, we request that you will be pleased to give us more particular orders on this head.

14. We also thought it proper to desire that the Board of Trade would inform us whether any contracts were held by the *banyans* of any gentleman here and in what manner the conditions of them had been executed. By the list sent in, it appears that Canto Baboo the Governor General's *banyan* holds 2 contracts for raw silk, one in the name of his son Lucknaut Nundie to the amount of current rupees 10,04,560 and one jointly in the names of Lucknaut Nundie and Parrankissen Sing for rupees 6,75,395-1-6. The Board of Trade promised to lett us know how the several contracts had been performed, but they have not yet done it.

15. The Proceedings of the Board of Trade have also been sent into us as far up as the end of June last, but the variety of other occupations, with which our time has been taken up has hitherto prevented our perusing them.

16. On the representation we received in the Secret Department from the Director and Council at Houghly respecting the obstructions experienced by their *gomastahs*, in general, in the business of their investment, we ordered a publication to be repeated which had been issued in April 1773 for a general freedom of trade, but the Board of Trade informing us that many of the weavers considering themselves by this advertisement discharged from the obligation of compleating the work for which they had actually received advances, we thought it necessary to explain the publication that it was not meant to invalidate any previous contracts voluntarily and legally entered into.

17. Finding also that objections were made to the Board of Trade employing *sepoys* in the *aurungs* about Dacca we directed them to make use of these *sepoys* only as guards to their factories and for escorts of treasure or goods.

18. In the beginning of last month we took into consideration a letter from them proposing sundry regulations for the better conducting of the business at their factories, we agreed to most of them but some particular articles requiring an explanation, we shall defer publishing any part of them until we receive the information required to enable us to settle and conclude the whole.

19. We have received the opinions of the Board of Trade and the several provincial councils upon questions, referred to them, respecting the benefits or disadvantages that would accrue from re-establishing the mints at Patna and Dacca and in case they should be re-established whether it would be most eligible to stamp the coins with the name of the station of each seperate mint or continue as formerly to affix only that of Moorshcdabad. The

sentiments returned to us on this subject were various, and as we deemed the discussion and determination of it, a matter of great importance, we only then recorded the different letters, leaving the general subject to be hereafter considered.

20. The process used for recoinng the rupees received from Fyzabad by mixing with them an equal number of *sicca* rupees in order to raise them to the *Arcot* standard had begun to create a scarcity of the *sicca* specie, and as it would not only be impossible to procure a sufficient number to standard the whole sum received and to be received from the Nabob but even in case it were, as this process would reduce the standard coin of the kingdom to create a foreign one, we thought it proper to alter the mode and accordingly directed that they should be refined to the *Arcot* standard and coined into that specie.

10th July
do

The Mint and Assay Masters reported that this would be something more expensive to the Company and more tedious; however, as we have sent to Moorshedabad for 20 refiners we hope, in a short time, that the whole of the Fyzabad rupees will be recoinng and brought into circulation.

21. We have continued to make publication from time to time of our intention to pay off the bonds, bearing interest at 8 per cent or to renew them at the option of the holders at 5, and that we might be enabled the sooner to reduce the whole of the debt to that rate of interest we opened our treasury also for fresh loans at 5 per cent of the whole bonded debt bearing interest at 8 per cent there only remains current rupees 14,05,427-4-3, for which bonds were granted in 1773, to be paid off and we are now publishing an advertisement for the discharge of this by the 31st instant. The period limited for the payment or reduction of the bonds of December 1772 expired 31st ultimo and a considerable sum now remains bearing no interest on account of the bonds not having been presented. For a particular state of the whole we beg leave to refer you to the account of quick stock which makes a number in the packet.

22. The chunam contractor having laid before us a representation of the inefficacy of the exclusive *perwana* granted him for gathering shells in the 24-Pergunnahs for his chunam works, we ordered a fresh *perwana* to be delivered to him; you will be advised of what passed further on this business under the head of inspection.

23. We have received from Major Tolley two proposals, the first is to make a publick road directly across the country from Calcutta to Patna and from thence to Banaras. He is willing to be at the expence of this undertaking on condition of obtaining a grant from Government for the space of seven years from the commencement of the work by which he may be allowed to collect a toll at the distance of every 5 miles, the rates of these tolls are specified in the proposals and appear to us very moderate. Considering the many advantages likely to arise from such a road, we paid proper attention to the plan of Major Tolley and directed him to report to us the probable expence of surveying the tract of country through

which it was to be carried; by an answer just received from him, but not yet entered on our proceedings, he computes it at about 10 or 12 thousand rupees.

24. The second proposal contained a plan for cutting a canal from Balliagaut, a village upon the west side of the salt water lake, to communicate with a rivulet which branches from the Ganges a little below this town. Major Tolley offered either to enter into a contract for executing this service, on the Company's account, at the usual rate paid for excavations, in the New Fort, etc., or to take it upon himself in consideration of 80,000 rupees, to be advanced by them and permission allowed him to levy a toll upon all boats passing through it for two years. This plan still remains for our deliberation.

25. In our letter of the 16th May now dispatched by the *Northumberland*, we informed you of the explanations which we had required Mr. Burgh, the Paymaster of the 2nd Brigade, personally to give of the amount, received from the Nabob for the subsidy stipulated for that Brigade and a compleat account of his disbursements, but Mr. Burgh being exceedingly ill when he left Patna did not reach the Presidency, he died at Burrampore on his way down. We immediately took proper measures to secure his treasure and accounts, and have ordered the Military Paymaster General to adjust them as soon as possible.

26. Lieutenant Norman Macleod on whom we had ordered a board of enquiry to assemble to investigate a complaint of sundry violences, said to have been committed by him with a detachment of *sepoys* near Dacca, on seeing the persons who had accused him declared them to be people against whom he had been sent by the Chief of Dacca at the instigation of the inhabitants of the adjacent districts, who had long been infested by a gang of robbers under the direction and command of these very men. That this banditi, having erected a mud fort, committed every kind of oppression and violence with impunity and had always repulsed the people who had been sent against them, by the *zemindars* of the country. Mr. Macleod said that he did no more than execute the orders he had received for taking the dacoit and his followers and sending them prisoners to Dacca. He referred to many persons to confirm what he alledged, and as most of these people were at or near Dacca we directed the Chief and Council there to make proper enquiry into the facts, and they have in return sent us the affidavits of sundry persons, both *ryotts* and *sepoys* of the party under Mr. Macleod declaring that the complainants were the very dacoits, against whom he was sent, that they had a mud fort in which they confined the *zamindar's* son and others and committed many acts of oppression upon the people of those parts; these came to hand since the close of our proceedings.

27. We were lately acquainted by General Clavering that the officers of the 15th Battalion of *sepoys* had entered into a confederacy, to send

3rd July Lieutenant Colonel Goddard, the officer immediately commanding the *sepoys* corps, to Coventry or to avoid all

social communication with him, because he would not interfere with the colonel of the brigade to prevent his appointing a captain, from the Europeans to do duty as commander of battalion in the absence of its captain. Being of opinion that a confederacy of this nature should be stopped in the first instance, we gave orders for the officers concerned to be tried by a court martial. A fresh charge was afterwards exhibited against them for having taken undue methods to possess themselves of a private letter written by Colonel Goddard to Captain Gravely and publishing it with injurious remarks upon the former. This we also transmitted to the commanding officer to be delivered to the court.

24th July

28. Our Secretary and his assistants as well as most of the principal officers of government in Calcutta having been summoned at the late sessions of oyer and terminer to serve on the grand and petty juries (in consequence of particular orders from the court for summoning an extraordinary number of jurymen viz., 48 grand and 72 petty jurymen) and they foreseeing the interruption of business which must necessarily have followed in their different departments, if they should be obliged to attend on these duties, represented the inconveniencies to the court and claimed a dispensation for the present time and an entire exemption from being summoned on the like service in future. The court were pleased to comply in part by dispensing with the service of some in each office, although they declared these applications to be irregular but as they were sensible, that certain officers should be excused from serving on inquests and not being sufficiently acquainted with the importance of their trusts to judge which of these should be, they gave it as their opinion that they could not in future grant any dispensation on the grounds of a private request but that we might apply to them by petition on behalf of the Company, setting forth the detriment liable to accrue from the absence of such officers as we thought indispensably necessary with a list of the offices, and that the Sheriff would be directed, in future, not to summon them, the Board not being agreed upon the propriety of such a measure we did not order any list to be made out but we persuade ourselves that the like difficulty will not occur hereafter.

29. Soon afterwards the Secretary was subpoena'd to attend the court in the cause of the King against Rajah Nund Comar and ordered to bring him with some of the records of his office which would be called for in the course of the trial, we directed the Secretary to attend accordingly but to submit to the court that we conceived the suffering our records to be exhibited in open court might be attended with many ill consequences as they often contain secrets of the utmost importance to the interest and even safety of the state. The court were of opinion that in some cases it might be necessary to produce the books or records, but then that a proper officer should attend with them and suffer only such parts to be examined as related to the case in point or that extracts properly attested should be made and delivered into them. They did not, however, come to any positive

determination on this subject and the papers which the Secretary had been required to bring were not called for.

30. By the proceedings of the Board of Ordnance which have been laid before us you will be apprized of the new arrangements that have been made in the establishment of commissaries, deputies and conductors of Ordnance. The present establishment consists of 3 commissaries, 5 deputies and 11 conductors viz., 1 commissary 1 deputy and 2 conductors to the brigade in the upper station, 1 commissary and 2 conductors to the brigade at Berrampore, 1 deputy commissary and 1 conductor at Chunargur, 1 deputy and 1 conductor at Buxar, 1 deputy commissary and 1 conductor at Mongheer, 1 commissary and 2 conductors at Patna, 1 deputy commissary and 2 conductors at the Presidency and Budge Budge. The former establishment was a deputy commissary and 2 conductors to each of the 5 companies of artillery, a deputy commissary and 2 conductors in charge of the magazine at Patna, 1 deputy and 1 conductor at Chunar, one conductor at Mongheer and one at Buxar—in all 7 deputies and 15 conductors. The encrease of expence by the new arrangement, including the appointments of the Secretary's office amounting to 775 rupees, is only 160 rupees per month.

Board of
Inspection
8th June

31. In consequence of a report made by the Chief Engineer to the Board of Ordnance of the sum remaining unexpended of the appropriation fixed for the fortifications of Fort William we have thought proper to authorize the execution of such further works as appeared to him most necessary to be carried on this season. These are, the retaining walls to the counterscarps of the two demi-bastions with the casemates, to rebuild part of the counterscarp wall behind Verelst's counterguard, which had given way, and to clear and dress the uneven parts of the esplanade recommending it to him to effect these several works on the most frugal and expeditious plan.

8th June

32. The Chief Engineer having also reported some works wanting to the magazines at Budge Budge we have thought it necessary to allow them. The expence, however, by the Engineer's estimate will be but inconsiderable.

8th June

33. The Board of Ordnance having transmitted us the opinions of the Commissary General, Chief Engineer and Commandant of Artillery (of which we made mention in our last address) on the plans referred to them for the regulation of the publick works, they are now, recorded upon our proceedings and are submitted for your inspection. We have not yet come to any resolution on the establishment of a clerk of the check, the other office proposed by one of those plans, we informed you that we had not thought it expedient to create.

8th June

34. The Commissary General having laid before us a bill of Colonel Maclean's, for expences incurred by him in his journey to camp and from thence to Calcutta, amounting to 17,000 *sorant* rupees in the debates which ensued on this subject you will

15th June

perceive that the bill was rejected, but as some of the members of the Board were desirous that Colonel Maclean might himself have an opportunity of explaining the particulars of the demand it was agreed to refer his claim to you, and if it be to your satisfaction that payment might be ordered.

35. The present Commissary General's allowances not having been regulated, we took the same under our consideration and have granted him the same pay and allowances as were fixed for his predecessor, Colonel Maclean, independent of those belonging to his military rank in the service, which we hope will meet with your approbation. We will only add, upon this occasion, that the laborious duties annexed to the office of Commissary General and the advantages the Company experience from this appointment are such as to merit your consideration referring you to our proceedings at large for the justness of this observation.

36. In consequence of representations from the Master Attendant, of the difficulties and distresses arising to the Company's service in his department from the method of paying the artificers and *lascars* and coolies in the marine, in arrear, we were convinced of the impossibility of adhering to that plan and were necessitated to repeat the order laid down in the plan of regulations, which had been adopted for conducting the business of the marine and of yielding to the demands of these people by issuing their pay in advance, as however, the pay of the *lascars* was purposely raised as an inducement to them to submit to the regulation for issuing their pay at the end of each month. We have thought proper to reduce it to the former rates.

37. The contracts for supplying the stores to the offices of the Naval Storekeeper, Storekeeper of the Works and *Buxy* having expired the end of the month of June, we issued advertisements for receiving proposals for the new contracts to continue for the space of one year. The contract for the Military Storekeeper's office expiring also at the same time, publication was made by the Board of Ordnance for furnishing the stores of that department and they also took the opportunity of advertising, in other terms from what we had done, for the 3 offices abovementioned, that is to say at a percentage more or less than the late contract price.

38. In consequence of these publications many proposals were delivered in offering to contract for supplying the Honourable Company with stores for the different departments all which as well those delivered to the Board of Ordnance as those received in pursuance of the advertisement made by us stand recorded upon the proceedings of the Board of Inspection, and in order to judge of the terms offered by the several proposers we directed comparative estimates to be prepared and laid before us of the whole that had been delivered in, and we have the pleasure to acquaint you that the terms of the proposals are at a medium between 8 to 15 per cent lower, than the

late contract prices.

39. In the interim application was made to us by the Master Attendant for permission to renew his former engagements of carrying on the marine service by contract, and under any further restrictions that might be judged necessary by us for that purpose, urging in his favour the peculiar hardships he had suffered by the circumstance of his late contract having been annulled so soon after its being entered into on the part of the Honourable Company.

15th June
22nd June
40. We also received an application from one of the Master Attendant's deputies Mr. Cumming an active and diligent officer in the execution of his duty, offering to be joined with the Master Attendant in the contract for the marine, should such a step be thought necessary, and undertaking to keep the vessels in such a state of repair, that at the expiration of the term of the contract, they should be in the same condition as that in which they were delivered over to them.

41. At the same time that the above proposal was submitted to our consideration by the Master Attendant and his deputy, another was laid before us by the Naval Storekeeper, Mr. Keeble, undertaking under any penalties to supply every kind of marine stores not in the Company's warehouses, as they might be wanted at the lowest prices being allowed a reasonable commission on the prime cost. The advantages arising to the Company from this proposal he pointed out to us by comparative estimates formed of the medium market prices of stores used for the marine with those which had been supplied by the contractors, he soon after submitted for our inspection a book of rates of every article which could probably be wanted for the service of the marine, agreeably to which he engaged to supply the several species of stores or such under the prices therein specified as they could possibly be purchased for proposing a commission to be allowed him of 15 per cent on the purchase price.

6th July
18th July
42. The Naval Storekeeper shortly after understanding that application had been made by the Master Attendant for permission to resume his former engagements also delivered in his own proposals for defraying the general expences of the marine, by contract, upon the same plan and upon terms somewhat lower than had been undertaken by the Master Attendant.

43. Among the proposals delivered to the Board of Ordnance you will find two addresses presented to them, the one by the Military Storekeeper the other by the *Buxey*, in which they have set forth the difficulties and disadvantages arising to the Company's service from the mode of supplying stores by contract and offering terms to the consideration of that Board for the supply of the stores which might be required for their respective offices. The terms proposed by the former are similar to those before mentioned as having been submitted to us by the Naval Storekeeper, *viz.*, an allowance of 15

per cent to be granted on the market prices or upon those calculated by the Commissary General all charges included. The terms of the latter are to supply the stores either at the market prices with an allowance for charges, or at the rates fixed by the late contracts.

44. The dispatch of this ship has prevented our coming to a determination so soon as we could have wished on these several proposals. It will however be the first business we shall proceed upon after this dispatch and you may be assured that we shall give due consideration to the subject and adopt such plan as in our judgements we think best calculated to answer the purposes of the service, and to ensure a saving in the expence of each department.

45. We beg leave, in this place, to mention that we took the occasion while we had these several points under our deliberation to consider whether a Company's servant could be engaged in any
20th July contract with the Company consistently with your orders, received at different times, upon the subject of contracts and particularly with that contained in the 50th paragraph of your letter of the 23rd March 1759. By a reference to the proceedings of the 20th July you will be informed of our separate opinions on this question, the majority of us being of opinion that a Company's servant might, under certain limitations and restrictions, consistently with your orders, be engaged in a contract with the Company and further considered the service as the best pledge for the due performance of it, such persons only excepted, who from the nature of their offices might be supposed to have an influence in the disposal of contracts or who were intended as checks upon the contractors.

46. Taking into consideration the state of the brick contract we have advertized for proposals to be delivered in 15th August next for contract-
24th July ing to supply the Company with this article for the term of 3 years, conceiving such an engagement more likely to ensure good bricks for the service of the works and upon lower terms than if the contract had been fixed for a shorter duration.

47. We have been under the necessity of commencing a prosecution
20th July in the Supreme Court of Judicature against the survivors of the firewood contractors for the balances due by them to the Company on their contracts amounting to current rupees 63,161-10-12.

48. Besides the boats included in the contract entered into with Mr. Frazer for this establishment mentioned in the late Board's letter of the 15th March last, it was found necessary by the late Board to continue a number for the immediate service of the Presidency under charge of the Commissary of boats, these, however, by subsequent regulations fixing the stations of the contract boats were rendered in a great measure useless and as the keeping of them was attended with a great expence we have
1st June caused them to be disposed of for the most they would fetch which, we are sorry to tell you, is no more than 3,600 .1760t rupees, though the monthly establishment of them had been

nearly 5000 rupees, and a small establishment has been fixed in their place, by contract, which will equally answer the purpose of the service and produce a considerable saving to the Company.

49. The *chunam* contractor reported to us that notwithstanding the *perwanna* granted him for the exclusive right of gathering shells for his *chunam* works in Jessore and the 24 Pergunnahs several applications had been made to him by private persons for liberty to import *chunam* from the former of those places. In order, therefore, to give effect to the *perwanna* and to prevent the contractor pleading the insufficiency of it in case of failure in his engagements we thought it proper to prohibit the importation of any from those districts on private account.

Supplement

50. In addition to the passengers by this ship mentioned in our former letter we have permitted the following persons to embark.

Mr. Alexr. Ky'nd Elliot

Mr. Hy. Martin Creswicke

Mr. Wm. Wogan.

The two first of these gentlemen were covenanted servants, and finding it necessary for their private affairs to proceed to Europe have been permitted to resign.

51. We have also allowed Captain Alexander Adair to resign the Honourable Company's service and to take his passage by the *Northumberland*; he was solicitous to be put upon the list of pensioners but was not furnished with all the certificates necessary to entitle him to it; however we administered to him the oath of qualification, and as we understand that he has written to his commanding officer for the certificate required we suppose that his attorney will hereafter lay it before us for our approval and transmit to him.

52. The following soldiers, having served their contracted time and being unwilling to renew their engagements, have been ordered on board the *Northumberland* as charterparty passengers, their passage has been paid for here.

Thos. Stevens.....served 5 years

Jacob Santry.....do.

Isaac Newton.....do.

Mathew Hanney.....do.

Flowers Walner.....do.

Augustus Fife.....6 and 6 months

Thomas Sturler.....5

Wm. Griffiths.....5

Geo. Suent.....5

Thos. Simes.....5

53. Observing that the Board of Trade, in the 9th paragraph of their letter to you dated 21st July and now forwarded, complain of not being yet furnished with such extracts from your letter, 24th December 1774, as

relate to the business of their department we beg leave to inform you that on the 24th ultimo, the first time we met after the arrival of the *Colebrooke* for reading again and considering the General Letter, we referred to the Board of Trade such paragraphs of it as concerned them.

54. The balance of cash remaining this day in your General Treasury is current rupees 22,72,132.8. In the *Khalsa* Treasury *sicca* rupees 20,14,091-11-14-2. The money sent down from the Nabob of Oude rupees 13,06,157-12.

55. There also remains a balance in the cash of current rupees 36,260-15-6.

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful
humble servants.

Fort William,
3rd August 1775.

Particular state of the treasuries, viz.

Khalsa Treasury.

Cash.....*sicca* rupees... ..6,19,217-11-14-2

Bills receivable.....2,51,000 — —
8,70,217-11-14-2

75 chests arrived from Dacca

said to contain..... 9,00,000. . . .

From Burdwan invoiced.....2,43,874. . . .

Sicca rupees 20,14,091-11-14-2 current rupees
23,36,346

General Treasury.

Cash.....11,77,132-8-0—

Cash unsorted.....10,95,000 — —

42 chests just arrived by Lieutenant Wright

from the Nabob said to contain..... 10,92,858-5-0

In the mint to be recoined..... 2,13,309-7-0= 35,78,300-4

Rupees 59,14,646-4

LETTER DATED 20 NOVEMBER 1775

Differences with the Dutch over laying buoys in the Hooghly—Balam-bangan attacked and evacuated—Board of Trade protest for not being consulted regarding treaty with Asafud-Daulah—regulations for commercial factories—death of Mr. Middleton, President of Board of Trade—differences with Board of Trade over (i) house for their President (ii) control over surgeons at the factories—position regarding debt—difficulties in establishing uniform coinage—allotment of remittances to England through bills on Directors—Maj. Tolley's schemes for a road and a canal—arrangement of contracts for supply of stores—question of pay and allowances of Col. Stibbert—Mr. Stewart, Council Secretary,

dismissed; suit filed by him in Supreme Court—Gladwin's dictionary of Indian languages.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We have now the honour to address you by the *Salisbury*, Captain Bromfield—this ship is dispatch'd to you with a cargo amounting to current rupees 15,98,600.

2. Since we wrote to you on the 3rd August, by the *Northumberland* we have sent the *Colebrooke* with the usual quantity of saltpetre and redwood on board besides 50 tons of fine goods to compleat her lading at Fort St. George, and in consequence of our permission to that Presidency in compliance with their requisition of 8th September to stop one of the ships bound to Bengal they detained the *Nottingham*; both these ships were fully loaded and dispatched to you from Madrass on the 15th ultimo.

3. We have received your commands of the 4th January 1775 by the *Ankerwyke* and *Hillsborough*, the 3rd March by the *Nottingham* and the 7th March by the *Godfrey*.

4. The *Talbot* is the only ship remaining to arrive and we are advised by the President and Council at Bombay that she imported there the 27th August and would be sent round to Bengal at the proper season with a cargo of cotton.

5. We have fixed the 10th December for the dispatch of the *Hillsborough*, the 15th for the *Ankerwyke* and the *Godfrey* 20th January 1776. On the *Ankerwyke* will be laden 50 tons of fine goods and the remainder of her cargo will be shipped at Fort St. George.

6. Captain Mallack brought his ship the *Britannia* to Bengal in the month of August last; her bottom was so much decayed that he thought it would be necessary to give her a thorough repair but as it could not be done in this river for want of a proper dock he desired leave to proceed to Bombay where the bad timbers might be replaced or if found necessary she might be built upon anew. He strongly urged his proposition for rebuilding the *Britannia* at Bombay as likely to yield much advantage to the Company and informed us that your Honourable Court had in contemplation the building of a number of ships at Bombay for the service and were prevented from making the experiment merely by the necessity of obtaining a dispensation from the act¹ respecting British built vessells, we thought that the President and Council at Bombay, under whose directions the *Britannia* was more immediately placed, might have received particular orders from you on this subject and, therefore, agreed to permit Captain Mallack to take her round in the fair season and to leave her entirely at the disposal of that Presidency where if they judge it necessary to sell her. We think that the conveniency of a dock will enhance the price in comparison with what she might be sold for at this place, but in case,

they can repair her in a proper manner we shall desire them to return her as soon as possible with a cargo of cotton that she may arrive in time to be dispatched to Europe next season.

7. The carpenters on surveying the *Britannia* did not think her capable of making a voyage to Bombay, but as the Captain and officers confidently asserted a different opinion and offered to navigate her at the risk of their own personal safety and as we had in memory a very recent instance wherein the same carpenters had been notoriously mistaken, for they reported the *Asia* both incapable of being refitted in Bengal or of proceeding to Bombay, yet after she was sold she had been repaired here and had performed two voyages to Madrass, we, therefore, consented to lett the *Britannia* go as Captain Mallack had desired.

8. The orders contained in your letter of the 23rd December respecting the pilotage of the ships out of the river will in future be duly attended to, but as you seem to have been misinformed in the case of the *Lord Mansfield* we think it proper to acquaint you that we called on the Master Attendant who assures us that this ship was attended by two pilot vessels at the time she was wrecked and that in general, it has been customary to send two vessels with each of the ships on their dispatch from this port especially if it should happen in any but the most favourable part of the season.

9. The annual survey of the river was made by the proper officers in the month of July last, for their report of the soundings of the channel and situation of the buoys we beg leave to referr you to the Consultation noted in the margin.

10. An agreement had been made between the Dutch Master Attendant and ours in 1774, which was confirmed by their respective superiours, stipulating that 7 buoys should be laid and kept up by the English and 5 by the Dutch. The Directors and Council at Houghly lately conceiving that we had not duly attended to this proportion in the number of buoys found to be necessary on the last survey, complained to us that they had been obliged to fix three extraordinary buoys one of which was lent to our Master Attendant at his particular request and he had not paid for it. We requested him to explain these circumstances and found that the complaint had been caused by a difference of opinion between him and the Dutch Master Attendant but that a new buoy had been just dispatched to Chinsura in payment for that borrowed of him, but the irregularity lay on the side of the Dutch who had encreased the number of buoys fixed by the agreement that subsisted between us without our mutual consent. Our Master Attendant had objected to placing one of the buoys mentioned by them because there was a very rapid stream in that situation and too great a depth of water and in fact it was carried away soon after by the current, the other had been placed without his knowledge, however, we acquiesced in their opinion that the extraordinary number was necessary and agreed the English should have eight and the Dutch six.

11. The Director and Council also mentioned an instance of a Dutch

ship being stopped near Calcutta for duties but this proved to be a frivolous complaint of the captain and without any grounds.

12. Captain Gardiner, whom you have appointed to the pilot service, has applied to us for a vessel with proper officers to qualify himself by obtaining a perfect knowledge of the river we could not spare him a vessel or lascars but have allowed him to take any officers who were unemployed to assist him in a vessel which, he afterwards said, he would hire for that purpose.

13. The *Boreta* and *Sea-Horse* pilot sloops being old and nearly worn out in the service, we have written to Bombay for two other vessels to supply their place but mean to employ them until the new ones can be built.

14. The agent for the fleet offered the *Goodwill* tender to us to carry treasure to Bombay and as we conceived this a proper conveyance, because she would join the fleet at Tellicherry and have the benefit of their convoy along the Malabar Coast, we ordered 5 lacs of rupees to be sent by her, but an accident happened to her in the passage down the river which prevented her sailing we took the opportunity of a Bombay vessel which Mr. Tayler of that Presidency offered us to supply the place of the *Goodwill*.

15. As it is not possible to procure bills of exchange for the remittance to Bombay we see no other method of accomplishing the supply of 20 lacs of rupees which we had promised to the President and Council there than by transporting the greatest part of it in bullion. We shall, therefore, send a part by the *Dolphin* man-of-war which is now here, and the remainder by some good vessels which Mr. Tayler has engaged to carry it.

16. As the *Goodwill* tender was not offered to us for conveying treasure only but also for any other articles which it might be necessary to send to Bombay we desired the Board of Trade to laid [sic] on board her 4000 bags of the saltpetre which the Presidency of Bombay had indented for, but they refused to comply and alledged that they had engaged for other ships to perform this service. We since find that they really had not that quantity of saltpetre in the warehouse at the time, but as they did not make this an excuse for their non compliance we have acquainted them with our sentiments that no authority is allowed them by your instructions to freight any vessel on the Company's account without our previous assent or directions, and to avoid any undecisive altercation with that Board we beg leave to submit the propriety of their conduct in this instance to your determination.

17. Agreeably to your directions for sending an increased store of rice and paddey for the use of the island of St. Helena we have ordered the usual quantity to be doubled; we have also signified your orders to the captains concerning their conduct at that place.

18. We are extremely sorry to acquaint you that the island of Balambangan has been attacked and plundered by the people of Zooloo. The Company's servants and their people escaped on a vessel which was

laying in the harbour and retreated to Lamboan a port on the West coast of Borneo proper.

19. Sir John Clerke, Commander of His Majesty's ship *Dolphin* by whom we dispatched a quantity of opium for the settlement of Balambangan, has returned with it because he found nobody there to receive it but Mr. Barton, a person employed on the surveying service there, who had been deputed by Mr. Herbert from Lamboan to give notice to ships touching at Balambangan of the accident and of the place to which the factory had retired. Sir John Clerke appearing at the Board, we obtained from him all the information which he had been able to gather from Mr. Barton respecting the loss of the place, from which such strong marks of negligence and want of caution appear that we cannot avoid remarking them. Intelligence of the intentions of the Zoloans had been sent to Mr. Herbert some days before they made the attack and he was even advised of the plan which they had formed for surprizing the place but he neither threw up any intrenchment on the side that was open to assault nor did he take any other measures to defend it; he even suffered a quantity of furz to remain there which afforded a convenient ambush for the assailants. Mr. Herbert did indeed keep his forces under arms all the night before the attack but the Zoloans who had now approached so near as to be concealed among the furz watched this opportunity, and when the factory had retired to rest in the morning and left only the centinels on their posts, they rushed forth, killed the centry's [*sic*] and advanced to the guns on the stockade towards sea which they took possession of and fired among the houses. The gentlemen immediately quitted the island and fled to the ships; the loss sustained by the Company on this occasion was computed by Mr. Barton to be about $3\frac{1}{2}$ lacks of rupees.

20. These acts of hostility had been committed by one of the nobles of Zoloo without the authority or consent of the Sultan of that country, and Sir John Clerke, with a view to obtain reparation for the injury, went to the Sultan at Zoloo who received his messenger with the news of his arrival in the most arrogant and haughty manner directing him to acquaint his master that he might come but must guard his expressions with the greatest caution. Sir John attended the Sultan and got him to acknowledge the justice of his cause and even to give hopes of redress but expecting to receive less than his demand he delivered an estimate of damages amounting to 4,00,000 dollars. After much delay and evasion the Sultan offered only 10,000 dollars, a sum so disproportionate to the demand could not be accepted but seemed rather to carry signs of derision than a wish to redress. Sir John Clerke, therefore, left his court immediately giving him to expect a more disagreeable visit.

21. We have received no advices from Mr. Herbert and his Council since this misfortune nor can we tell in what manner they are accommodated at Lamboan. The commander of the *Eagle* sent us the first news of the loss and drew a bill on us for provisions which he purchased at

Sir John Clerke's
Report. Consultation
11th October



Raja Chait Singh

Batavia, We apprehend he is charged with letters to the Presidency of Fort St. George and we have desired them to devise means of affording relief to the gentlemen at Lamboan if they should appear to be distressed for necessaries. Mr. Herbert in one of his letters to Mr. Barton declares their situation and conveniency at Lamboan for a settlement of trade to be preferable to that of Batambangan.

22. We desired Sir John Clerke's observations and opinion of the places he had seen which he delivered to us with directions for the navigation and they will be found in Consultation of the 23 October.

23. After we had concluded the treaty entred into with the Nabob Asoph a'Doula the Board of Trade conceiving themselves neglected in not having been consulted on the occasion mentioned the circumstance in one of their letters, reminding us at the same time of the 3rd paragraph of your instructions which direct us to take the opinion of the Board of Trade in all treaties whereby our commerce may be affected, but as the treaty with the Nabob of Oude was only a renewal of that which expired with his late father, and as we did not see how your trade could be in any manner affected by it, it did not appear to us necessary to apply to the Board of Trade particularly as by the Treaty of Allahabad a right existed to establish factories in the Nabob's country, which nevertheless it had not been found expedient to make use of, nor do we think it can be your intention that we should consult them on the formation of all foreign treaties but that it should be left to us to take their sentiments in any cases which may come within the spirit of your orders.

24. We have this season allowed to the Dutch Company their usual quantity of 23,000 maunds of saltpetre including a balance of 16,000 maunds which they had neglected to receive of their last year's proportion. To the Danes we have granted 12,000 maunds in consequence of their particular request, and the French having repeated their application for a share we have been induced to order 18,000 maunds for that nation to be delivered on the receipt of its amount in ready money.

25. The Board of Trade informed us that after the delivery of these several allotments the quantity of saltpetre would (as they expected) be about 6,000 maunds deficient of your demands and that these having been increased, the amount of petre produced in Bahar would annually fall short of them if the same quantities were divided off, for the foreign companies. The Board of Trade desired leave, therefore, to employ agents in Raja Cheyt Sing's country to provide the yearly deficiency. As we did not conceive that this step could be taken consistently with terms on which the Rajah is to hold his *zemindarry* of the Company we could not grant our consent but immediately wrote to him to know the terms on which he would undertake to deliver a quantity at Patna.

26. We have promised to advance to the Board of Trade for the investment of the ensuing season 75 lacs of rupees which added to the amount of their import sales which we compute at between 6 and 7 lacs and the ballance of goods of this year's provision will be sufficient to pay

all their factory charges and enable them to prepare an investment as large as we have any reason to expect tonnage for.

27. The Board of Trade have proposed to us sundry regulations to be established at the commercial factories which we have adopted with very little variation. They relate chiefly to the conduct of their agents toward the weavers and the subjection of both to the country courts. We shall mention one article because it appears of greater consequence than the rest, that weavers in the employment of the Company who receive advances from individuals and are unable to fulfill their engagements with them should only return the principal sum advanced and not be compellable either to deliver cloths or pay any interest upon it.

28. The discouragement from making any advances to the Company's weavers, contained in this article appearing in a manner connected with and consonant to your orders for prohibiting private merchants from trading in any of the articles composing your investment until it should be completed we thought it proper to include the article in the same publication. As we conceived the investment never to be at a stand, because advances are made and goods received all the year round, we thought it right before we issued the publication to consult the Board of Trade upon the propriety of inserting the above provision, which in this case seemed to hold out an advantage to individuals which they could never enjoy, however, as that Board were of opinion that the provision should not be omitted we caused it to be inserted according to your directions.

29. We are concerned to advise you of the death of Mr. Middleton late President of the Board of Trade; Mr. Aldersey the next member in seniority has succeeded to his station and Mr. Bateman has been called down to take his seat at that Board.

30. The house lately occupied by Mr. Middleton as President of the Board of Trade was found on a survey to be in a decayed condition from its age and not repairable under a very heavy expence. We, therefore, put it up to publick sale and disposed of it for Rs. 40,100.

31. The President of the Board of Trade being thus deprived of the habitation allowed him, in obedience to your instructions, we have granted him in stead the house hired of Mr. Keir for the use of the Supreme Court of Judicature as the Court did not chuse to make use of it without such additions as would have cost a considerable sum. And we have made it a condition of the grant that the godowns appertaining to it, which are numerous, shall be made use of for the Import Warehouse to supply the place of those in the Old Fort which had been declared unfit for service. We have also ordered an estimate to be formed of the repairs necessary to put the latter into a proper state when it comes before us; we shall determine what purpose they will best answer.

32. The Board of Trade having for some time continued to make objections to receive Mr. Keir's house for the use of their President and the Company, whilst this dispute was dependg. [sic] continuing to pay a very

high rent for it we thought it expedient at last to be decisive with them and to prevent any further altercation we directed the *Buxy* to pay the rent and deliver the house up to them for the above purposes.

33. The surgeons stationed at the commercial factories lately petitioned us for the payment of their salaries which had been withheld since the establishment of the Board of Trade, we referred their claim to that Board desiring that all arrears might be discharged, but they did not think proper to allow it and have declared they will not consent to issue any pay from their department to the surgeons stationed under them unless these surgeons chuse to give up the general line and succession of the service to be solely under the Commercial Department. If they accept these terms we can have no objection, otherwise we must withdraw them from the factories and employ them in other duties.

34. You are already apprized of the gradual steps which we have taken for reducing the interest on the bonded debt from 1 to 5 per cent, the whole of which has been accomplished excepting on the bonds belonging to the estate of Mrs. Hunt and the Church Charity Fund. The former of these having been paid into the treasury by her executors at the solicitation of the late Government, in consequence of your orders of 27th June 1770 directing them to endeavour to secure it for bonds at 8 per cent because it is to revert to the poor at St. Helena in case of the death of Charles Palmer an orphan to whom Mrs. Hunt had bequeathed it. We did not think ourselves authorized to reduce the interest as this was suffered to remain at 8 per cent by your particular order. Motives of charity induced us also to suspend the reduction of the interest on the other but we request to be honoured with your directions respecting them both, the first amounts to current rupees 47,696-11 and the last current rupees 40,686-1-3.

35. We next proceeded to discharge the principal of the debt and issued a publication to call in the bonds dated in 1774, amounting to
 30th August current rupees 841319-1-6, by the 30th September and
 those granted in April, May and June 1775. All the rest
 we declared should become payable at the treasury twelve months after
 their respective dates and that all interest should cease after the periods
 limited for their discharge.

36. These orders took place in Council 30th August and were immediately proclaimed. We did not receive your letter dated 3rd March until 6th October, and as the declared object of your intentions in the regulations, conveyed to us by that letter, for the reduction of the interest, etc. on Company's bonds were to relieve the Company from the burthen of their bonded debt we conceived that we had already anticipated those intentions in the most beneficial manner by the above arrangements by which the principal amount had, at that time, been diminished from current rupees 1,25,00,000 or thereabouts to the principal sum of current rupees
 18th October 4,71,557-13-6 which was also in course of payment. The
 spirit of your orders, therefore, having been effectually,

carried into execution we thought it unnecessary to issue the advertisement which you directed. The total amount of the debt with interest thereon to the 15th instant was current rupees 74,09,270-11-5 whereof 9,14,263-5 bears no interest.

37. Your orders respecting the *batta* or exchange on the different kinds of specie of this country will require our most serious and mature consideration. We have long wished to take up the subject and to form some lasting regulations but we see so many obstacles in our way that we have not yet been able. The *shriffs* and others who bear so great an interest in keeping up the present distinction will undoubtedly exert all their power to render abortive any measure of government which may put a total stop to their profits. The *sicca* rupee is not sufficiently tempered with alloy to make it hard and durable, the quantity of silver which wears off by a few years currency must inevitably diminish its intrinsic value and create a discount, and the natural repugnancy inherent in the subjects of any country to a material innovation in its current coinage must create the greatest difficulties besides the loss which must accrue to government by the adoption of any innovation whatsoever. These considerations have induced to defer taking any steps in respect to the coinage until we shall have it in our power to form some perfect and permanent system and to frustrate, by previous measures taken for that purpose, all the opposition we are likely to meet with in carrying so material a point into execution.

38. We have divided the remittance, which you have allowed us to make, this season through your cash among your civil and military servants, etc., in the following manner.

To the Governor General	..	..	£ 14,000
To each member of the Board	..	..	7,000
To the Chief Justice	..	..	2,000
To each of the Judges	..	..	1,500
President of the Board of Trade	..	..	1,500
Each of the members	..	..	1,000
Colonels	..	..	1,000
Senior merchants, Lieutenant Colonels and the head surgeons, each	..	..	660
Junior merchants and majors	..	..	330
Factors, captains and surgeons	..	..	110
Writers, subalterns and assistants -do-	..	..	55

These proportions being allowed to the number of persons who have applied for shares make up the amount which you have limited. The sum which you have allotted to the estates of persons deceased or gone to Europe and to free merchants, etc., in Bengal has also been divided but from the number of appropriations which you have thought proper to make, reducing the whole sum allotted to persons in the above characters from £ 25,000 to £ 1,904, each share only comes to £ 16. We have not granted any bills by this ship but shall begin to draw by the *Hillsborough*.

39. The certificates of the several captains of your ships which you returned have been paid into the treasury agreeably to your orders and bills will be accordingly delivered for the amount.

40. We have directed Major Tolley to perform the survey, mentioned in our last letter, of the country through which he proposes to make a publick road to Benares and to take the level of it all the way allowing him the amount of his estimate for the execution of this survey which he said would be ten or twelve thousand rupees. We shall be able to judge on his return whether the scheme be practicable or not and accordingly determine upon it. The Major thought proper to alter the plan of the other scheme which he had proposed for cutting a navigable canal from the river Houghly to the Salt Water Lake by offering to relieve the Company from the advance of 80,000 rupees which, agreeably to his first proposal, they were to have contributed towards the work and to compleat it at his own expence, in the space of three years, on condition of his being allowed to collect a duty of 1 per cent on the invoice price of all goods passing by that navigation during a grant of 12 years. This appearing to us more eligible than his former offer we directed him also to survey this land and to lay the plan before us.

41. The Chief Justice and Judges finding that they could better accommodate the Court with offices in the late Court House than in the house hired of Mr. Keir unless the additions were made to it, which they had proposed, informed us that they would be content to make use of the late Court House until we could be furnished with your directions for providing one more suitable. And upon their repeated representations that additional appartments were requisite for the offices of the Court we have permitted a house to be taken, contiguous to the Court House, not exceeding the monthly rent of 200 rupees.

42. Pursuant to the intimation given you in the 44th paragraph of our address by the *Northumberland* we shortly after the dispatch of that ship proceeded to take into consideration and to determine on the several proposals which, we then informed you, had been delivered to us for contracting to supply the stores for the expence of the different offices at the Presidency, and we propose in this place briefly to lay before you the plan we judged it expedient to adopt for the supply or regulation of each department.

43. In the letter abovementioned we recited the nature of the different proposals. Those for the Marine claimed our first consideration, and it appearing that the mode of contracting for the whole expences of this branch at a fixed sum would be more for the interest of the Company than to engage for the supply of the stores seperately it was agreed to adopt this plan and the preference was given to the proposals offered by Mr. Keeble, your Naval Storekeeper, not only because his terms were somewhat lower than those of the Master Attendant but because of the established check there would then be on

Board of Inspection
Proceedings
10th August

10th August

the part of the Master Attendant over the execution of the service which would not have existed had the Master Attendant himself been the contractor.

44. This mode of granting the contract did not meet with the concurrence of the Governor General, and Mr. Barwell who recommended a partition of the establishment between the Master Attendant and the Naval Storekeeper, for the reasons assigned in their separate opinions on the subject, but this proposal we were apprehensive might be productive of competitions between the two parties by which the service would be injured.

45. We beg leave to refer you to our proceedings for the copy of the contract entered into with the Naval Storekeeper and the particular instructions we judged it necessary to issue on the subject to the Master Attendant.

17th August
24th do.

46. We think it necessary to inform you that we have upon a representation laid before us by the Naval Storekeeper of the disadvantages he would labor under in case the contract with him should not be extended beyond the term of one year intimated to him that it is our present intention to continue the contract in his hands, provided he gives satisfaction in the execution of his engagements during the term of the first year; and it shall appear upon trial that this mode of conducting the service is most advantageous for the Company, and not disapproved of by you, but we thought it unnecessary to make this an article of the contract.

47. In consequence of the above arrangement for conducting the business of the Marine the establishment of the Paymaster's office was reduced, and a reduction was also made in that of the Naval Storekeeper.

24th August
31st do.

48. The checks established upon the provision issue and expenditure of the military stores, being such as to prevent almost the possibility of fraud or embezzlement in the Storekeeper's Department without being liable to immediate detection determined us to give the preference to the proposals of Mr. Livius, your Military Storekeeper, for the supply of the stores of his office at the rates fixed by the Commissary General's book of rates allowing him a commission of 15 per cent as agent for his risque and trouble.

17th August

49. A contract has been accordingly concluded with that gentleman for the term of one year, a copy of which you will also find recorded on our Proceedings.

5th October

50. We did not, however, think it proper or safe to accept of the proposals of the *Buxey* for supplying the stores of his office as the same checks were not established over his conduct. He himself indents for a considerable part of the stores used for his department and the expenditure is chiefly under his direction, for these reasons we rejected the offer made to us by that officer.

17th August

51. Among the proposals, therefore, which had been laid before us

for the supply of the *Buxey's* department those of Mr. Thomas Adams
 17th August appearing to be the lowest the preference was given to
 them as also for furnishing the stores required for the
 service of the works, that gentleman having made proposals for all the
 offices.

52. The very low terms upon which Mr. Adams has undertaken
 the contract, being 15 per cent less than furnished the last year or 18
 17th August per cent less than the rates specified in the late contracts,
 may perhaps make it appear doubtful whether he will
 be able to execute his engagement, but as we required responsible securities
 for his performance of the conditions and as it has been made an article,
 as well in this as in the contract for military stores, that the penalties on
 deficient deliveries shall only be equal to the contract price of the articles
 which the contractor shall fail to supply, we trust to his exertion and ability
 for the execution of his engagements.

53. The heavy penalties to which persons who have entered into
 contracts with the Company had been hitherto subject having by experience
 been found to defeat their own purpose by being always disproportioned
 to any single failure, induced us to adopt the above plan, for we have
 reason to believe that the gross penalties which have been imposed has
 been the cause that in fact few or no penalties have been exacted for
 breaches of contract and that contracts had not been performed. An
 instance of which appears in the year 1774 in the Military Storekeeper's
 department where in the article of canvas the contractor not having been
 able to furnish it at the contract price the late Government entered into new
 engagements with the Storekeeper for furnishing tents at a specifick price.

54. The contract has been concluded with Mr. Adams for the term
 12th October of one year and a copy thereof stands recorded on our
 proceedings for your information.

55. In consequence of the publication which, we had the honor to
 advise you, had been made for supplying the Company with bricks many
 17th August proposals were tendered us for this contract. Those of
 Mr. Collings being by far the lowest were accepted and the
 terms are thought to be very advantageous for the Company.

56. This contract not having yet been executed we are sorry we
 cannot referr you to the copy of it. but we hope by the next ship that we
 shall be able to point it out for your notice and approbation.

57. Having again taken into consideration the subject of contracting
 for the repairs of the cantonments at Burrampore and Dinapore we have
 31st August at length closed with the offers of Lieutenant Colonel
 Parker for the term of two years judging this contract of
 too much consequence to be granted for a longer time. It has been accord-
 14th September ingly concluded on the terms mentioned in his proposals
 recorded on our Proceedings of the 20th April last, and
 for your more particular information we beg leave to referr you to the copy
 of the contract itself.

58. In conformity to your instructions copies of our proceedings on the subject of the foregoing contracts shall be selected and transmitted you as soon as possible for your more compleat information.

59. The Board of Ordnance having represented to us the superiority of the cartridge paper received from Europe to that manufactured here and the necessity, therefore, of supplying this Presidency with that article agreeably to the indent which may be transmitted from hence, we beg leave to request that you will be pleased to direct a full compliance therewith in future.

60. They have also desired that it may be made a particular request to you to direct that the best flints which can be procured may be purchased, the flints sent out to this Presidency for several
14 September years past, having been found by experience to be so exceedingly bad as frequently to make it necessary to purchase flints in this country from the French and Dutch. The particular sort which that Board have recommended to be purchased are called white oiled flints.

61. The Superintendent of the Powder Works having fixed upon a proper spot of ground, on the same side of the river as
14th September Calcutta, for the erection of new powder works we have authorized him to carry into execution the plan which we before advised you had been submitted by him for our consideration.

62. We beg leave to transmit you by this ship the proceedings of the Comptroller of the Offices containing his examination of the accounts of those offices which you have been informed come under that comptrol, we are pleased to have anticipated your intentions by the revival of this office and it is, therefore, with much satisfaction that we have now an opportunity of acquainting you that the suspension in the exercise of it was attended with little or no inconvenience, the Comptroller having included in his examination the accounts of those months in which the office was vacant and regularly continued the same to the present period.

63. Colonel Stibbert and Major Knudson arrived and have been admitted to their rank on this establishment agreeably to your appointment. Colonel Morgan is also come in the *Godfrey*; we have not had his commission as yet before us. Colonel Stibbert being the senior officer now in the service we have allowed him the pay and emoluments lately given to Colonel Champion excepting the commission money and those attached immediately to the command of a brigade, which as there was no such command vacant we could not give him but have appointed him to succeed on the first vacancy and in the meantime to take the command in the field. With respect to the commission on the revenues we are uncertain whether it is your intention that the eldest Colonel should now receive the $5\frac{1}{2}$ shares formerly allotted to the Commander-in-Chief and the other two colonels enjoy the 5 shares set apart for them jointly or in what manner it should be distributed as all your orders are silent on this head. We have, therefore, agreed that in case of the absence of the Commander-in-Chief at any of the other presidencies Colonel Stibbert as provisional Commander-in-

Chief at the Presidency, which station he would then hold, shall be allowed the $5\frac{1}{4}$ shares of the commission during the period of such absence but that on the return of the Commander-in-Chief and during his residence in Bengal the first colonel shall only receive $2\frac{1}{4}$ shares and the surplus 3 shares shall be held in deposit until your pleasure, respecting the appropriation of them, be known.

20th October 64. We must confess, upon this occasion, that we wish your orders had admitted a construction in favour of the claim made by Colonel Stibbert as we cannot conceive it to be your intention that the commanding officer of your first establishment should be deprived of an indulgence which has ever been allowed to that station while the commanding officers at the inferior Presidencies, who are equally under the Commander-in-Chief, remain on the same footing as formerly.

65. The field officers are now the only persons for whose benefit any part of the fund arising from the commission on the revenues is appropriated, and numberless difficulties having arisen from the changes in the establishment and the succession of supernumeraries to it which perplex the just dividend, in the half yearly accounts we beg leave to recommend a total abolition of the commission fund and the substitution of an equivalent encrease of monthly pay to the field officers in its room, and that to prevent future mistakes, which otherwise will be unavoidable, that you will be pleased to specify the names either of such field officers to whom you may allot their respective shares in such gratuities or of them whom you mean to exclude from it.

66. We duly issued your orders to the Commissary General for abolishing the offices of his deputy and the other appointments under him, which you had objected to, but we felt ourselves under great embarrassment at the receipt of such peremptory orders for the reduction of this establishment and we are convinced that when you shall see the voluminous records and accounts which have passed through the Commissary General's office it will appear to you, in the strongest light, that a literal execution of your commands for striking off his deputy would cause irreparable injury to the service; when you reflect that all the military accounts of this vast establishment as well as all the bills for supplies and every voucher whatever must undergo the inspection of the Commissary General before they can be passed or paid so that if he should be prevented by sickness from giving that daily and unremitted attention which such a duty requires the business would fall into irrecoverable arrears and we fear the object of the institution would loose it's effect. We say that allowing proper weight to these circumstances we think you cannot disapprove of our having, at the urgent solicitation of the Commissary General, deferred the execution of your order in this respect which we have been induced to by the single consideration of its being indispensibly necessary for the good of the service; at the same time we cannot forbear offering it as our opinion that the responsibility annexed to this office and the odium to which its official functions stand exposed when they are rigidly executed make it

more deserving of liberal endowments than most of the offices in the service.

67. We have struck off the four clerks attached to the Assistant Deputy Commissarys at 150 rupees per month each, but the Assistant Deputy Commissaries are no more than the former Commissaries of Musters, attached to each brigade and to the troops at the Presidency, without whom no musters would be made of the forces nor any returns thereof sent to the Commissary General's office to enable him to check the different bills and accounts of the army, and the allowances are less than they possessed under the former denomination. However, that their appointment might be clearly understood we have abolished their present title and restored them to their former offices subject notwithstanding to the orders of the Commissary General. The persons employed as clerks in the office of the Commissary General are mostly Company's covenanted servants and the other offices being very deficient of hands and no servants out of station we could not possibly remove the monthly writers without greatly distressing and putting a stop to the business of the office, but the Commissary General has promised, when the business shall be compleatly brought up, to propose a plan of reduction to us.

68. We have anticipated the orders contained in your said letter for disallowing the Commissary General, in future, to furnish contingent supplies having ordered such supplies to be made only by the Commissarys of Musters agreeably to books of rates which we have furnished them for that purpose, and as we have established several different checks both upon the indents and their bills we think there is no room left for imposition.

69. The court martial appointed to sit at Burrampore on the conduct of the officers engaged in the confederacy to send Lieutenant Colonel Goddard to Coventry, after many days sitting, being displeased with the conduct of Mr. Lawrence, their Judge Advocate, chiefly for refusing to record on the proceedings a letter which he had produced in the trial sent us a formal complaint against him for inability, neglect, etc. He also complained at the same time against the President; we immediately removed Mr. Lawrence from officiating and he came down to the Presidency since which he has delivered in a vindication of his conduct. As the causes of the accusation though highly coloured do not appear very material we have resolved to lett the matter rest unless it should be hereafter necessary to make a regular inquiry into it, but as we did not think the post of Deputy Judge Advocate General, which was held by Mr. Lawrence, a necessary office we have abolished it.

70. Mr. Lawrence has since been permitted, at his request to resign the military service that he might accept an offer made to him of being admitted an advocate in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

71. Observing in the 160th paragraph of your General Letter, dated 14th August 10th April 1774^a, wherein you recommended Mr. John Stewart to be appointed Judge Advocate General that

you directed he should only remain in that employment until a vacancy happened in the Secretary's office at which time you had appointed him to succeed as Secretary. We conceive that, conformably to those orders, it was your intention that the office of Judge Advocate General should be vacated by Mr. Stewart on his succession to be Secretary. We, therefore, agreed that it was vacated at that period and resolved accordingly to declare it so.

72. We have since appointed Mr. Richard Johnson to the office of Judge Advocate General.

73. A short time after by a letter received from Mr. Motte whom agreeably to our resolution of the 10th February we had ordered, on the arrival of your advices by the *Colebrooke*, to return immediately from Benaras we found that he pleaded the additional license granted him by our orders of the above date for having enlarged his concerns and made many new engagements in trade at Benaras and, therefore, he thought it necessary to request a further time to settle his concerns as our resolution of the 10th February had been to continue the license to Messrs. Motte, Scott and Fowke until receipt of the next advices from you. We recurred of course to a copy of the notification to those gentlemen written in consequence by the Secretary which really expressed an extension of the term until your pleasure should be known on the former license. Such a material variation in the orders issued by the Secretary from the intentions of the Board made it necessary for us to pass a censure on his conduct which was accordingly done, but Mr. Stewart instead of submitting, as his duty required, to a censure so justly passed upon him declared that the unanimous and unprejudiced censure of the Board, even if he thought it in some degree unmerited, would fill him with the deepest affliction but under the present circumstances they had not that effect and that he did not acquiesce in it but considered the attack as preparatory to some more decisive stroke on the idea that by undermining his character his fall would be the more easy. Throwing such language as this directly in the face of the Board at such a period could not be passed by consistently with the subordination necessary to be maintained by Government among its officers and the respect due from them to its decrees; however, we considered that it might be an act of indiscretion in Mr. Stewart and being willing to allow our principles of lenity and indulgence to have as great a sway as we could with any degree of propriety in favour of that gentleman we agreed to overlook the above instance of disrespect on his making a proper submission and apology, the terms of which were at his request dictated to him; they required him to declare that he retracted the expressions which he had made use of. Mr. Stewart being accordingly called on, would not submit to make the apology, we took no further notice of it at that time but the next Council day he was again called on to comply, having had the intermediate space to consider of it, and as he still persisted in his refusal we judged it necessary to pursue more rigorous measures towards him in support of the dignity of Government and accordingly dismissed him from his office.

21st August

24th August

74. We have appointed Mr. Auriole late Assistant Secretary, to succeed him in the post of Secretary and by this we had anticipated your orders of the 3rd March in favour of that gentleman. Mr. Bruere the former Sub-Secretary has in rotation succeeded Mr. Auriole as Assistant and Mr. Kneller the senior Assistant in the office has succeeded Mr. Bruere as Sub-Secretary; we thought it proper at this time to diminish the salary of the Secretary 700 rupees per mensem.

75. Mr. Stewart in his reply to the notification of his dismissal declared that he considered it, as well as his former removal from the office of Judge Advocate General, illegal and unjust and he has actually commenced a suit in the Supreme Court against Mr. Auriole for the salary we had annexed to his office. He has also moved the Court for a writ of mandamus to this Board to reinstate him in his appointment of Judge Advocate General. We have ordered the Company's attorney to instruct their council [counsel] to defend the first, but in the latter case, to plead to the authority of the Court and if that should be overruled to defend the resolution of the Board upon grounds which we have furnished him for that purpose.

76. The Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature granted a rule for the Company to shew cause by their council [counsel] why such a mandamus should not issue to be argued on Thursday the 16th instant; on a motion by the Company's counsel to enlarge the rule, the 11th January next was fixed by the Judges, nevertheless on Saturday last the Supreme Court, without any cause shewn, took up the matter of their own accord and determin'd that they had no power to issue the mandamus and, therefore, recommended Mr. Stewart's counsel to move to discharge their own rule which was accordingly done.

77. As the members of the Board disagreed in their opinions upon Mr. Stewart's removal, from both the above offices, and many debates having passed in consequence, we think it proper to refer
 21st August you to the Consultations referred to in the margin for their different sentiments.

78. Mr. Francis Gladwin has laid before us a specimen of a very extensive vocabulary of the Persian, Arabick, Indostan, Bengal and Nagree languages which he means to print if he can find sufficient encouragement to secure him from any loss by that expence. We did not deem ourselves authorized to subscribe to this work for the Company's account, but as recommending it to you, if you should approve of it, would have the same effect we cannot withhold our testimony of its great utility and we are sensible that it must have cost Mr. Gladwin indefatigable labour and pains to accomplish it besides considerable expence, we, therefore, beg leave to recommend it as deserving any encouragement which you may be pleased to bestow. He proposes to rate the subscription at Arcot rupees sixty per sett and we understand it to be his wish that the Honourable Company would subscribe for at least 100 copies.

79. Major Hessman who was restored to his rank by the President

and Council in 1772, and whose case was then referred to you, had been restricted by them to captain's pay and *batta* until his elevation to his just rank should be approved of by you and your pleasure be signified regarding him. He was not an officer concerned in the resignation but had withstood all the solicitations of his associates and friends at that period

and remained firm to his duty, he was given to hope that
 17th August you would order the restriction to be taken off him, which you had only laid on persons restored to the service from that resignation of 1766, but having ever since his appointment till August last received only captain's allowances he represented his hardship to us and made it appear that even if he had been a prescribed person, from any connection in the resignation, and had met with the common indulgencies shown to others he must have been within the establishment of majors entitled to their full pay above 12 months ago, but that from the reference made to your Honourable Court remaining unreplyed to he was still subject to the original limitation laid upon him. His case appearing singularly hard we granted him leave to draw the full allowances of his rank but not considering ourselves warranted to pay him arrears from the date of his appointment without your authority we suspended our determination on that untill your pleasure was known, and beg leave to recommend his claim in the strongest terms to your favourable consideration.

80. Since the date of our last we have received advice of the death of Mr. John Morsdon Hatch on his way down from Dinagapore.

81. Messrs. William Marriott, Robert Gregory and William Platell are arrived at this Presidency and will take charge of the several stations to which you have been pleased to appoint them.

82. Mr. William Redfearn has obtained our permission to resign the service and go to Europe, by the *Colebrooke*, for the benefit of his health. He has long been afflicted with a severe and
 30th August lingering illness and has tried the air of the other Presidencies but been obliged to return without any benefit to his health. Being exceedingly loath to resign the service, he requested leave of absence to proceed as far as the Cape to try the effects of that situation but it not being in our power to comply with this request he has taken the resolution to go to England and will no doubt apply to you for readmission to his rank as soon as his health will admit of it. In such case we think it incumbent upon us to recommend him to you as meriting your favour. We are the more particularly induced to make this recommendation from the great assiduity which Mr. Redfern has shewn in the office which he lately held of Persian Translator and his extensive knowledge of that language.

83. Lieutenant Kingsley of the Engineers is also much reduced by continual ill-health and has been obliged to proceed to Europe as the only
 30th August likely means to reestablish it. Finding the climate to have constantly disagreed with him he petitioned, as senior lieutenant, to be promoted to the rank of captain in which case he would have obtained certificates for the pension as he despaired ever enjoying

health in this country, but as there was no vacancy we could not grant him promotion, upon this plea, being precluded from it by your orders, however, we cannot help recommending him as a proper object of your bounty in case his health should not enable him to petition your Honourable Court to return with his rank.

84. Captain Lieutenant I. Insley, of artillery on this establishment, finding it necessary, by the advice of surgeons, to proceed to Madrss for his health has been permitted to resign the service at that
16th August place and repair to Europe, in case he should not experience the benefit he hopes for.

85. Mr. Thomas Harrington, late surgeon of the 2nd Brigade, unfortunately lost his sight in service of the campaign and
6th October takes his passage by the *Salisbury* being furnished with the certificates to recommend him for the pension.

86. Major Polier has also resigned service with intention, as he
30th October says, to lay before you a state of his grievances.

87. We have regulated the rank of the cadets appointed in 1769 and 1770 agreeably to your orders. Lieutenant Cowe having been appointed in the beginning of 1769 by Mr. Verelst would, agreeably to the literal construction of those orders, have fallen below all those appointed in England and have lost above sixty of his original rank but as Mr. Cowe had received a commission of lieutenant from your Honourable Court, confirming him in his present station and expressly appointing him to rank immediately after Lieutenant Robert Dennis, we thought this gave him an undoubted right to continue where he was which we have accordingly admitted.

88. Mr. John Bathoe has desired leave to resign the service and proceed to Europe because he had been suddenly and unexpectedly recalled from his station in Council at Burdwan. He has been permitted to resign and take passage in the *Salisbury*, though we cannot allow that he has any just grounds to think his removal sudden or to murmur at it in any shape; indeed we think he has received great indulgence in not having been prosecuted for money which he together with Mr. Vansittart and other gentlemen of that Council, received even since the first of August 1774 when the clause of the act of Parliament took place prohibiting the receipt of presents.

89. The Judge Advocate General having desired that the courts martial might be copied for Europe in his office we have accordingly permitted them, and we have thought necessary to forbid the Military Pay-Masters paying any future charges for courts martial and directed that every expence should be discharged immediately under the Judge Advocate by which means the real amount of such charges may be ascertained at one view. As witnesses have also been sometimes wantonly summoned to the prejudice of the service and the expences of the Company we have made a rule that the charges accruing from the summoning and attendance of evidence shall be paid by the party at whose instance they are summoned

except in such cases as the Board may grant a dispensation; this will prevent persons being called for on frivolous occasions and without their evidence being material to the cause.

90. We observe that in our recommendation of Mr. Baugh to your notice and in your reply he is stiled Clerk of the Board of Inspection we think it proper to inform you that he was appointed Secretary to that Board not so much for the correction of the mistake as to shew the attention, which we deem justly due to him, for his unwearied diligence and assiduity in that office.

91. The Reverend Mr. Keirnander has requested that we would recommend to your favourable notice for the appointment of a writer to Bengal his son Mr. Robt. Wm. Keirnander, a youth about 18, who is just come out to him from Europe, we must say in favour of Mr. Keirnander that he is a very old inhabitant of this place and a man of very exemplary conduct and fair character, he has erected a church where he officiates and conducts the charity school.

92. Mr. George Sackville Brown whom you appointed a cadet for this Presidency has been detained at Madrass and exchanged to that establishment by the particular desire of his brother who is chaplain there.

93. Mr. Alexander Kyd on his arrival here informed us that you had appointed him a cadet for this place but as no mention was made of him in any of your advices we admitted him to make his affidavit to the fact and have, in consequence, ordered him to be received into the service.

94. Mr. Thomas, late attorney to the Honourable Company. has been allowed to proceed to Europe with his family by the *Salisbury*.

95. Captain Roger Hogg who has tried ineffectually every means that change of air or medicine can afford to reestablish his health in this country is now reduced by a long illness to such a state as makes it necessary for him to follow the advice of the surgeons and repair to Europe, by this ship, in hopes of benefit from that climate; as he intends to petition your Honourable Court for permission to return to his rank in case of his recovery we think it due to Captain Hogg to recommend him to you for such reinstatement.

96. Ensign I. Baker has resigned the service and repairs to England, by the *Salisbury*, with a view to settle his private affairs there.

97. Mr. Alexander Murray is also permitted to take his passage to England by this ship and some children whose names are inserted in the list of passengers.

98. The following invalided soldiers have obtained proper certificates to entitle them to the pension on their arrival in England and are allowed a charterparty passage by the *Salisbury*.

William Hognott

James Clark

James Willoughby

John Bale

Alexr. McLaud

Richard Dixon
 Joseph Elsworthy
 Joseph King^o
 Donald Mackensie

99. The following soldiers having served their contracted terms and desired to be discharged are also ordered on board the *Salisbury* on the terms of charterparty, and the passage money for all these people has been paid here.

Robert Mitchell	—	Gunner of artillery
Henry Francis	—	Private infantry
John Kay	}	Serjeants
John Jones		
Jas. Rayner, John		
Quisted and Batchelor		
Belcher	—	Privates
Peter Harris	—	Private invalid

100. Lieutenant John Rattray has obtained our permission to resign the Honourable Company's service and proceed to England by this ship.

101. The ballance in your General Treasury this day is rupees 26,28,508-3. In the *Khalsa* Treasury *sicca* rupees 10,15,767-9-3. In the Cash current rupees 6,554-1-0 and in the Mint rupees 4,24,250-0-0.

102. A register of the certificates granted by this ship under our signature forms a number in the packet.

We are with respect
 Honourable Sirs
 Your most faithful humble
 servants
 Warren Hastings
 J. Clavering
 Geo. Monson
 Richd. Barwell
 P. Francis.

Fort William,
 20th November, 1775.

LETTER DATED 29 NOVEMBER 1775

Board's reasons for refusing to produce their proceedings before the Supreme Court in Stewart's case.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We think it highly important to your service that you should be informed, as early as possible, of the proceedings of the Supreme Court of Judicature in an action brought by Mr. John Stewart, late Secretary of this Council, against Mr. Auriol, our present Secretary, for 1800 *sicca* rupees the amount of one month's salary annexed to that office and received by Mr. Auriol since Mr. Stewart's dismissal.

2. On the 23rd instant Mr. Stewart's attorney addressed a letter to Mr. Bruere, our Assistant Secretary, requiring him to produce in the Supreme Court on the 28th following sundry papers belonging to the records of the office and said to be necessary for the information of the Court in the cause above mentioned. You will observe that the papers, required by the attorney were, the whole of the General Letters from you to the President and Council in 1770 and 1771, a part of the proceedings of the late President and Council, the whole of the instructions sent over by you to the present Governor General and Council and a part of our Consultations.

3. A majority of the Board resolved not to comply with the requisition. The cause came on yesterday, our Assistant Secretary, attending in consequence of a subpoena, was asked by the Chief Justice whether he was ready to produce the papers required by Mr. Stewart's attorney. Upon his answering that he could not produce any papers belonging to the office without the orders of the Board and that the Board had declined giving such orders the Chief Justice declared that it was a positive denial of justice; that if the resolution of the Board was carried by a majority the particular members who voted against complying with the attorney's requisition were liable to separate actions for damages on the part of the plaintiff and insisted on Mr. Bruere's informing the Court what was the opinion of each member of the Board. Mr. Bruere accordingly declared that the Governor General, Colonel Monson and Mr. Francis had voted in the negative, that Mr. Barwell had voted in the affirmative and that General Clavering had given no opinion. The Court, on receiving this information, thought fit to order their Prothonotary to attend us with the following message, "That the Court is given to understand that the Board refuse granting copies of the papers mentioned in a notice delivered to Mr. Bruere by Mr. Jackson as attorney for Mr. Stewart, and which are required to be produced in the trial of a cause now before the Court between John Stewart Esqr. and James Peter Auriol Esqr., that they cannot go on with the trial of the cause without having them produced in Court, that the Court is apprehensive that this Honourable Board denied producing these papers with the idea that the application came from a wrong quarter and that notices of this nature are always delivered by the attorney, that unless these papers are produced immediately the cause must be put off for want of them untill tomorrow".

4. The preceding message being explained to us by the Prothonotary as a requisition on the part of the Supreme Court we agreed to comply

with what we conceived to be the real intent and object of it, and ordered extracts to be prepared of such parts of the papers demanded as related to the cause depending before the Court.

5. On the return of the Prothonotary with our reply the Chief Justice remarked that he had made a mistake in delivering the message from the Court to the Council, that it was not meant as a requisition from the Court but only as an intimation to the Governor General and Council that they would be liable to an action, if the papers, required by the plaintiff's attorney, were not produced in Court.

6. It seems to us, gentlemen, that the proceedings of the Supreme Court in this case and the declarations made by the Chief Justice from the bench, constitute a precedent of the greatest consequence to the conduct of your affairs here and which it will be necessary for you to take into your most serious consideration. According to the doctrine delivered from the bench it is unlawful for your Governor and Council to refuse to produce in open court any papers deposited in our Secretary's office whenever they shall be demanded by an attorney as necessary for the information of the court in any cause depending before them. This doctrine is general and indefinite. It makes no distinction in the nature of the papers to be produced and leaves no discretion to us to judge of the consequences which may attend their being divulged. It depends on the caprice or ignorance of an attorney to expose the transactions of your affairs in every branch, and even your most secret instructions to us, to the curiosity and comments of every bystander in a public court, perhaps to the avowed enemies of the Company and nation. If your Governor and Council, alarmed at the probable or possible consequences of such a publication of your records, should hesitate or refuse to comply with the attorney's requisition they are charged with the positive denial of justice and are said to be liable to personal actions for damages. A distinction is made between the acts of the majority and those of the Council notwithstanding it is expressly provided by law "that the Governor General and Council shall be bound and concluded by the opinion and decision of the major part of the members present." And the Chief Justice obliges our Assistant Secretary to declare in open court the opinion given by each member in Council in order to found an action against such particular members as composed the majority.

7. Unlearned as we are ourselves and unassisted by council appointed under your authority we do not pretend to determine how far the opinions and proceedings of the Supreme Court on this occasion are or are not conformable to law. On this point we presume you will think it advisable and necessary to consult the highest legal authorities in England. With respect to the conduct of your affairs in this country and of the government committed to our charge we apprehend it to be self-evident that under the operation of the doctrine now delivered and established by the Supreme Court of Judicature the members of this Council cannot act with vigour, with secrecy, with freedom of debate or with personal safety.

It is not in the nature of things that a Council whose resolutions are liable to be immediately exposed to public view can act with firmness and decision. We are a Council of State without the possibility of keeping any part of our proceedings secret, and as individuals we are all or the majority of us liable to answer personally to any man who shall think he suffers damages by a resolution of the Board. You will judge for us, gentlemen, how it is possible for us to execute the trust reposed in us by Parliament or to obey your instructions while such difficulties are thrown in our way and while we are exposed to such consequences from the faithful discharge of our duty. We submit it to your wisdom to take whatever measures you may deem necessary for the preservation of a degree of dignity and authority in this Council equal to the services expected from us.

8. Until we can receive your instructions on this important subject we shall observe the utmost caution in all our proceedings wherever it is possible for them to be questioned by the Supreme Court of Judicature. We are sensible that excessive caution is a principle inconsistent with the dispatch even of ordinary business and much more so with that vigour with which every government is sometimes obliged to act for the publick good, yet this is the line which, in the present circumstances, our attention to your interest and to our own safety will equally oblige us to pursue.

9. As we wish to observe the utmost candour towards the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature in all our proceedings which may respect their conduct, we have ordered a copy of this letter to be delivered to them for their information.

We are with respect,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful
humble servants,
Warren Hastings
J. Clavering
Geo. Monson
Richd. Barwell
P. Francis.

Fort William,
the 29th November 1775.

LETTER DATED 18 DECEMBER 1775

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Duplicates of our last advices to your Honourable Court which were sent under date the 20th November, by the *Salisbury*, shall be forwarded to you in the beginning of next month by the *Hilsborough*, which

ship with the *Godfrey* we have agreed to dispatch direct for Europe on the 6th January 1776.

2. By the *Ankerwyke*, Captain Barwell, who is destined to proceed to Fort St. George, to complete his cargo at that Presidency, this waits on you and serves only to enclose a register of the bills of exchange which we have drawn on you to this day amounting to £ Stg. 1,21,481.—.5½. These bills have been delivered out to their proprietors in order to allow time for such as belong to persons at a distance from the Presidency to be sent to them for endorsement early enough to be returned before the departure of the other ships; and as some of the proprietors upon the spot may probably chuse to remit their drafts this opportunity we think proper to give you timely advice of them. The amount of certificates per inclose register is current rupees 6,857-2-3.

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants,
Warren Hastings
J. Clavering
Geo. Monson
Richd. Barwell
P. Francis.

Fort William,
the 18th December 1775.

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LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1776

Proposed remedy to prevent Commanders from refusing to take goods or passengers ordered on their ships—suggestions for reducing bonded debt of Bombay Presidency—proposal for increasing production of saltpetre, and its supply from Benares—samples of gold and silver bullion, and also some gold dust, received from Tibet, sent to Court—engagement with Maj. Tolley for digging canal finalised—original Council proceedings produced in Court in Stewart's case—Samuel Montaignut elected Sheriff of Calcutta—misconduct of Col. Ironside.

TO the Honourable Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The *Ankerwyke* was dispatched about a fortnight ago to receive a cargo at Fort St. George. By that ship we addressed you a short letter under date the 18 December 1775 and by the *Salisbury* our advices were dated the 20th and 29th November; we have now the honor to write you in duplicate by the *Hilsborough* and *Godfrey*.

2. You will have been apprized, probably before the arrival of this letter, by means of a protest made and transmitted to your Secretary

by Mr. Carmichael who was discharged with the dispatch of the *Salisbury* that Captain Bromfield returned 90 bales of piece goods which were sent down the river by the Board of Trade, and included in the invoice as part of the *Salisbury's* cargo.

3. The Board of Trade have assured us that the *Dutton* which is not a larger ship than the *Salisbury* carried a quarter quantity of piece goods than were destined for the latter notwithstanding
7th December she had on board 200 maunds of saltpetre more than have been laden on the *Salisbury*. We must, however, observe injustice to Captain Bromfield that he carried double the quantity of stores for St. Helena which had been usually sent by one ship untill this season that we have augmented them agreeable to your orders.

4. In consequence of this conduct of Captain Bromfield and the frequent causes we have had to complain of the captains at the period of their departure, for refusing to receive goods or passengers ordered on board their ships we have thought it
7th December necessary to form a rule that the sailing orders and dispatches shall be withheld from them untill all the goods and passengers been duly received and that in case of any delay occasioned by objections on the part of the captains the person sent down with the packets is to give us immediate advice and to protest against him for demurrage and all other consequences until he is furnished with our further directions.

5. The Presidency of Fort St. George have found occasion to retain a part of the copper consigned to this Presidency by the *Nottingham* and not being able to find convenient means to transport
13th December the gunpowder laden on her, we have also allowed them, at their desire to make use of the article. They have forwarded the other goods by country vessells.

6. The *Britania* being refitted to proceed to Bombay we recommended her to the Board of Trade to carry a part of the saltpetre demanded by that Presidency. That Board caused a survey to be
28th December made of the ship by the same officer who had before made a report to us that she was unfit to go to sea. They, of course, declared her not in a condition to receive any saltpetre on board but relaxed in their former opinion so far as to say that she was capable of performing the voyage in ballast trim. We called upon Captain Mallack for his sentiments if any and what quantity might be transported by her with safety, and as he thought that she would carry 2000 maunds with as much security as any other vessel we have directed that quantity to be sent by her.

7. We completed our promised supply of 20 lacks of rupees for this season for the Presidency and Bombay in the end of November last and have since that date accepted many bills from Surat which have been presented, but as the exchange still continues to be disadvantageous we have desired the President and Council to desist from drawing for any further sums until next season unless they can reduce the exchange to par.

8. They have lately told us that their bonded debt at that Presidency which now amounts to upwards of 22 lacks of rupees is daily accumulating by a heavy interest of 9 per cent and that their 'only prospect of reducing it is by our assistance, we think that even if it were in our powers to furnish them with money for that purpose the loss by exchange in the remittance, besides so considerable a diminution of the current specie of these provinces, would balance the single advantage to be derived from the saving of the interest upon their debt, for this reason we declined that direct mode but have recommended to them the adoption of the plan which we have followed with success at this Presidency, namely to open their treasury for the receipt of new loans at 5 per cent and to appropriate the amount thus subscribed to the discharge of their debt at 9 per cent. If this measure should fail at Bombay it probably might be accomplished by remittance from individuals at this Presidency, as their must be large sums of money inevitably thrown into the hands of private persons by the discharge of our bonded debt which they can have no better means of employing. Our debt is reduced to the state which makes a number in the packet and on this day is current rupees :

Bearing interest	32,70,594-0-9
Bearing no interest	22,72,585-2-3
Interest due thereon	2,03,648-0-3
Total current rupees	57,46,782-3-3

The balance in the different treasuries and the mint on this day is current rupees 45,77,803-0-9, which as it consist of the deposits current rupees 3,98,372-2-0 and the above debt not bearing interest 22,72,585-2-3 there remains an unappropriated balance of of current rupees 19,06,845-12-6.

9. We have received public advice from Fort St. George of the arrival of Lord Pigot and other gentlemen of the Council who came out by the *Grenville*. The *Hilsborough* being ordered to touch at Fort St. George at the request of Governor Wynch, we suppose that they will write to you by her.

10. We transmit you a General Letter from the Board of Trade dated 29th December 1775. Their proceedings are so voluminous that it is impossible for us to examine them with that attention we could wish, but a particular case having come before us and been the subject of a correspondence carried on with the Board of Trade in the Revenue Department we think it necessary to say that from the correspondence between Mr. Goodwin and that Board Mr. Goodwin's conduct appears to us highly deserving your approbation.

11. The Board of Trade have delivered an estimate for the advance of current rupees 69,50,000, out of the 75 lacks which we had promised to grant them for providing the investment of 1776/7 and we accordingly issued orders for securing payment of the amount required at their different factories.

12. Mr. Geraud who had lately been employed in the saltpetre branch at Patna, delivered proposals to us for increasing the annual produce

of that article and offered to provide it at a cheaper rate than is now paid. Conceiving this proposal to fall properly under the department of the Board of Trade we recommended it to them but have not yet been informed whether they have accepted it.

13. We have agreed with Raja Cheyt Singh for the quality of 4000 maunds of saltpetre, which we believe to be nearly the whole produce of his country, to be delivered every year to the Company at Patna at the rate of 4 rupees per maund. The Board of Trade were of opinion that he might be induced to engage on more reasonable terms and proposed to us also that a similar agreement should be made with the Nabob Asoph-UI-Dowla for the amount produced in his dominions. With respect to the first we cannot think it an object for the Raja to demand an exorbitant price for having before desired him to fix the lowest terms it seemed, therefore, improper to contend with him on that point, for the rest the Nabob's dominions do not produce saltpetre enough for his own use; we understand that for many years past he has drawn supplies from the Raja of Benares.

14. The Governor General has received in presents from the Taishua Lama some ingots of gold and silver bullion, also some gold dust, and being desirous of sending them to you as samples of the product of mines in the Tibet country we forward them in a box which makes a number in the book packet.

15. Major Tolley has laid before us a survey of the country from the north side of Calcutta to Balia Gaut and from the nulla on the south of the town to the Salt Water Lake. As less private property fell within this line than the former, we gave the preference to it on that account. We have, therefore, ordered the President of the Calcutta Committee of Revenue to assist him in settling with the few proprietors who hold any part of the land and have authorized Major Tolley to carry into execution at his own expence, the plan which he proposed to us for cutting a navigable channel from Surmon's Nulla to the Salt Water Lake, and we have complied with his conditions by agreeing to allow him a grant of this canal for 12 years from the 1st instant with a right to levy a toll of 1 per cent on the invoice price of all goods merchandize transported through it.

16. The Military Storekeeper has obtained from the late Com-misary of Stores and delivered into us an explanation of the causes for which such quantities of stores had been inserted in the
8th January indent for last season as to give you reason to express your disapprobation on that head we beg leave to refer to the Consultation noted in the margin for a full state of these reasons and hope you will find them satisfactory.

17. In consequence of an estimate laid before us by the Chief Engineer for the expenditure of the annual sum of six lacks of rupees appropriated for the service of the fortifications we have authorized the completion of the several works proposed by him to be carried into execution during the ensuing season, viz, the great sluice, Verelst's and Cartier's

counterguards and the barracks inside the Plassey Gate excepting the south east half of the latter which being raised to the spring of the arches, we have ordered to be covered in and carried up only to the first floor instead of building the upper storey of the northern half as was proposed.

18. The Chief Engineer's report of the state of the work will be transmitted you with our next address together with a plan to accompany it, and to those we beg leave to refer for your more complete information on this head.

19. The Chief Engineer having represented to us the necessity of contracting for a further supply of bricks above the quantity stipulated by the new contract for the use of the works we have entered
 31st December into engagements with the contractor, Mr. Collings, for furnishing fifty lacks of bricks exceeding the amount of his contract, which quantity the Chief Engineer reported to us would be required in the course of the season.

20. We were upon this occasion induced to make an advance of eight annas per thousand upon the allowance made Mr. Collings, by the terms of his contract, for the original quantity demanded of him being well assured, from enquiry, that the terms on which he had undertaken to supply them must prove disadvantageous to himself and we believe that the advanced price now acquiesced in will leave the contractor no more than a reasonable profit upon this additional supply.

21. Having, for reasons which you will find assigned on our proceedings, ordered a publication to be made prohibiting individuals from burning bricks within a certain distance from the town of
 14th December Calcutta it afterwards occurred to us that such an order although justified by the practice of the former Government, which had no provision made by law for the reformation of abuses or for establishing such regulations as necessity might indispensably require, yet might be liable at this time to exception as being contrary to the intention of the late act of Parliament which makes it lawful for the Governor General and Council to make and issue rules, ordinances and regulations for the good order of the Company's settlement at Fort William etc, etc., but not to be valid until duly registered and published in the Supreme Court of Judicature with the consent and approbation of the said Court of Judicature.

We, therefore, resolved to withdraw the advertisement and
 11th January to repeal the order which it contained. We purpose, however, to take this subject into consideration when we shall have leisure to form such a regulation to the same effect as may be proposed to the Supreme Court of Judicature for their consent and approbation to be passed into a law to the inhabitants of this settlement.

22. It appearing from some remarks laid before us by the Chief Engineer that in the form of keeping the accounts of the expences of the fortifications they had been extended to an uncommon
 7th December and useless length by the mode of entries, and as no person had been appointed to execute the duty of accomptant to the late Com-

mittee of Works since the abolition of that Committee and the accounts, therefore, greatly in arrears, we have directed that one account of the whole year's expence formed of the monthly abstracts kept by
 14th December the Chief Engineer concluding with the last year in which the expence of each separate part of the fortifications is distinctly inserted should be drawn out with the established charges and allowances divided among the different works in proportion to the years amount of each.

23. This we judge will be sufficient for ascertaining the annual cost of each part of the fortifications and for comparing the real charge with the estimates but we are of opinion that it will be impossible, by any retrospect of the former accounts, to form the account of the expence incurred on each seperate work from the beginning as in the accounts of former years all the charges were carried to the account of the fortifications in general without any specification at the conclusion of every year, such an abstract will be formed and annually transmitted to you.

24. Understanding from a report made to us by the Chief Engineer that there is not more than a sufficient quantity of chain to reach across
 Board of Inspection proceedings 30th November one third of the channel at the forts of Budge, and it being the Chief Engineer's opinion that not less than twelve hundred yards of chain (although sufficient to reach twice across the river) will ever answer the purpose of checking or stopping bodies of a large burthen in so rapid a stream we beg leave to submit it to your consideration whether, if the quantity of chain recommended by the Chief Engineer should appear to you necessary for the defence of the river it may not be expedient to supply us with it.

25. Should you judge it proper to take any information upon this subject we recommend it to you to consult Lieutenant Colonel Campbell who first constructed these forts and will be able to give you any information that you may require, and if upon enquiry you should determine to supply us with this quantity of chain it will be proper that a sufficient number of floats and anchors with chains to them, to secure it with the utmost dispatch in case of emergency, should also be sent with them.

26. The agent of cloathing having made application to us, in behalf of the captains, for reimbursement of the amount of the loss of a boat containing 16 bales of cloathing belonging to the second
 21st December Brigade we have not thought ourselves justified in admitting the claim and have, therefore, rejected it as we are of opinion that the officers who receive the off reckonings and enjoy the advantage of providing the cloathing should be subject to the loss, but as it seems to be the first instance where the loss has not been paid by the Company, we beg leave to refer the case to you for your ultimate decision upon it and also for our guidance in cases of a similar nature in future.

27. Application having been made to us by Lieutenant Colonel Parker for permission to draw his full pay, *batta* and allowances as Lieutenant Colonel during the time he may be on service beyond the provinces, he being restricted by your orders to the pay and *batta* of captain till the

number of field officers be reduced to the stated establishment, we had recourse to your commands on the cases of Lieutenants Colonel Wilding and Goddard for our determination upon this reference, and it appearing from these that field officers restricted to the pay and emoluments of captains should nevertheless be allowed the pay and emoluments annexed to the rank which they hold when they are appointed to commands beyond the provinces in the regular tour of duty, which was precisely the case of Lieutenant Colonel Parker in the present instance, we consented to his drawing the allowances of his rank during the time that he shall be upon service out of the provinces but have still restricted him to the pay of captain, this we think will be the most conformable to your intention as the *batta* and other emoluments are supposed to be in proportion to the actual expence incurred for which those allowances are assigned.

28. Our letter of the 29th November with the extracts of our Proceedings of that and the following day, which accompanied it, contain a full account of all that had then passed respecting the declaration of the Supreme Court on our refusal to produce the minutes and papers required by Mr. Stewart's attorney. On the 5th December when we were again assembled in Council we perceived on looking more minutely into the paper brought from the Court by Mr. Barwell on the 30th November that the word *denial* (of justice) had been struck out and 'obstruction' written over it, as it appeared of the highest importance to ascertain the precise words made use of by the Chief Justice in his declaration from the bench, and our letter, above referred to, having stated them upon the report of our Assistant Secretary to be a "positive denial of justice" we thought it necessary to enquire of the Assistant Secretary if he recollected the assertion with certainty enough to repeat the words upon oath, he replied that he had a perfect recollection of them, that he had since heard many gentlemen who were in Court at the time confirm what he had before declared and he, therefore, voluntarily made his affidavit that the expression used by the Chief Justice was that our refusal to deliver the papers was "positive denial of Justice"; some debates passed in consequence at the Board which will be sent at large in the Consultations.

29. After this we caused copies of all the orders and resolutions of the Board which had any relation to the cause of Mr. Stewart to be delivered into Court, and the persons by whom they had been attested gave their attendance in Court to authenticate them, but these extracts were not admitted as valid, the originals existed and it was necessary to produce them. The cause was adjourned for that purpose and the Original Consultations were carried to Court by our Sub-Secretary. We understand that the council for Mr. Auriol read from them only the resolutions and orders of which we had previously delivered copies, but the council for Mr. Stewart was allowed to read such of the opinions of the individual members of the Board as he thought proper notwithstanding the remonstrances of the Company's council and some of our officers who were present in the Court. On this occasion we must beg leave to repeat and insist upon

the arguments we have already submitted to you, in our letter to you of the 29th November, with respect to the inconvenience to which your affair must be expected and the restraint and hazard to which we are personally subject by the free declaration of our opinions if they are liable to be published and canvassed in the Supreme Court of Judicature at the requisition of any attorney who may think proper to call for them.

30. The Court deeming the cause of Mr. Stewart against Mr. Auriol for the salary of his office as Secretary a question of some importance had deferred giving judgement upon it until this day. In the meantime they proposed for the satisfaction of the parties that instead of one month's salary which was the original sum sued for the amount should be increased to a sum sufficient to admit of an appeal from the decision of the Court, which has been accordingly agreed to.

31. We now understand that the Court have this day again postponed the decision *sine die* which prevents our acquainting you with the result of a cause highly important, as we conceive, both to this Government and to the Company. If your representatives here have no discretionary power to suspend any of your servants or if upon being charged with injustice and irregularity in the exercise of it the first appeal is to be made to the Court of Judicature here and not to you we apprehend that your authority will be hereby degraded in the eyes of your own servants and that your representatives here cannot, with safety to themselves or without involving you in the expence of perpetual law suit, attempt to exercise any controul over them or of course to preserve any order or discipline in the government. When we received our instructions from you we understood that we were accountable to you only for the due execution of them. If the doctrine maintained by the Judges be legal, that is if we are compellable to produce our instructions if those instructions taken against us have the force of law and the Court of Judicature are to determine in the first instance whether we have adhered to them or not one of two consequences we think must follow, either you will agree with the Court of Judicature and then we shall be liable to double prosecution for the same offence or if you acquit us of any breach of your orders we may be cast in damages here for a violation of the same instructions which you, who are the best judges of your own intentions, may think we have strictly adhered to; at all events if a doctrine which deprives the Governor and Council of all discretionary power notwithstanding any possible change of circumstances be legal we presume that it will be very necessary for you to revise your instructions and to consider that for the future they are to be subject to the strict or arbitrary construction which the Court of Judicature here may think to put upon them.

32. whilst our dispatches by the *Salisbury* were closing and after the General Letter had been signed, Mr. Stewart sent in an address to your Honourable Court which he desired might be transmitted to you by that opportunity, but as it was sent in so late and contained many charges against three members of the Board which they could have no time to

reply to by the *Salisbury* we thought proper to defer sending it untill the next dispatch. We now forward it a number in the packet by the *Hilsborough* together with seperate minutes of General Clavering, Colonel Monson and Mr. Francis in reply to such parts of his allegations as they have thought it necessary to take notice of.

33. Mr. Stewart in this address having accused General Clavering of rewarding many inferior offices [officers] at the Presidency by salaries, travelling charges, contingencies and direct presents so liberally from the Company's treasury, the General thought it proper to request the Governor General would inform him if he knew the particular instances alluded to in this assertion. The Governor General declared he knew of none which the General had granted for he could grant none of his own authority, that many salaries had been fixed and bills for travelling charges and contingencies passed by the Board and a direct present of a considerable bond granted to Mr. Bristow, but that Mr. Stewart would be the best interpreter of his own words and could alone explain which he alludes to of these; but the Governor supposed he rather referred to opinions than acts with respect to the bond given to Mr. Bristow we must remark that as it depends solely on your confirmation, it cannot be called a direct present out of your treasury; these words if they mean any thing must mean sums of money taken out of your treasury and actually given away.

34. Mr. Stewart has resigned the service and taken passage by the *Ankerwyke* declaring that his was compelled to it by our having dismissed him from his offices. We granted him permission to resign agreeable to his request not admitting, however, that any act of the Board had compelled him to quit the service.

35. It is proper you should observe that Mr. Stewart by his voluntary resignation of the service before the determination of the suit instituted by him in the Supreme Court has precluded us from the possibility of making any alteration in the resolution we had taken respecting him even if the decision should be in his favor.

36. Captain Delafield, being desirous to acknowledge the grateful manner in which he has received the mark of favor conferred on him by your orders of the 3rd March last, has sent in to us an address of thanks to your Honourable Court which we transmit a number in the packet.

37. We have paid the amount which you have been pleased to order to Colonel Munro's attorney who likewise applied to us for bills of exchange at the rate at which they had been usually drawn when the agreement with the Colonel for his *jaghire* was concluded, although we were as much as possible inclined to favor the pretensions of Colonel Munro we could not comply with this last request of his attorney. You had allotted a particular share of this year's remittance to him, the exchange of which was fixed at 2s. 1d., and we thought besides that the interest allowed by your order was in part a compensation for the fall of the exchange.

38. The court of enquiry into the complaint exhibited against Lieutenant Mcleod have concluded and reported their proceedings to us by which
 27th December it appears that he is perfectly cleared of the crimes alledged against him in the petition of the complaints; as this was referred to us by the Supreme Court we have sent the proceedings for their perusal and informed them that we think there is no ground for entering a prosecution against Lieutenant Mcleod.

39. All the officers who were brought to a court martial under the charge of having combined to send Lieutenant Colonel Goddard, their commanding officer, to Coventry and for having taken undue means to possess themselves of a private letter written by him to Captain Gravely have been acquitted of those charges, but as we were of opinion that in the differences which gave rise to these accusations the officers tried were the aggressors and not Colonel Goddard we resolved, for the maintenance of peace and good discipline in future, to separate them from his command by removing them to other corps of the army.

40. The Supreme Court duly returned to us on the first Tuesday in
 5th December the last month three persons from whom we have elected Mr. Samuel Montaigut to serve the office of Sheriff for the year ensuing and he has been sworn in accordingly.

41. The office of regulating captain of the militia of the town of Calcutta becoming vacant by the resignation of Captain Hogg the Governor General proposed the appointment of a successor, on this occasion the paragraphs of your orders 25th March 1772 which respect this establishment were read. We were all extremely well convinced of the great utility of a good disciplined and well regulated body of militia but then being no coercive power lodged in this Government to compel the inhabitants to attend the exercise whenever that corps might be drawn out, and as we understood that it had for a long time been totally in disuse by the non attendance of the inhabitants, we rather considered the offices annexed to that establishment at present as sinecures and, therefore, resolved to abolish them and ordered the arms and accoutrements to be received into store; as we were not unanimous in this resolution we must have recourse to the Consultations to shew what passed upon it.

42. Colonel Morgan is arrived and having been placed by your
 13th December appointment above Colonel Leslie we accordingly granted him the rank and commission of a full colonel with the pay and allowances of that rank.

43. We are concerned to be under the necessity of reporting to you several misdemeanors which have been laid to the charge of Colonel Ironside whilst he commanded the 3rd Brigade at Dinapore shortly after his leaving that place to come down to Berhampore. Major Hessman who received the command from him issued a brigade order directing that 11 lascars who had been discharged by order of Colonel Ironside and by the same authority returned on command but their pay reserved and paid by his order to the Major of Brigade should in the next muster roll be returned

as wanting to complete. Lieutenant Colonel Parkar who only two days after the date of this order arrived at Dinapore and received the command from Major Hessman issued another order directly revoking that of Major Hessman and calling it a presumption in him to have countermanded the order of his commanding officer Colonel Ironside. Major Hessman conceiving himself injured by this revocation and reflection upon him wrote to the Commander-in-Chief accounting to him for the order he had issued and adding a list of accusations against Colonel Ironside which he said he was obliged to lay open for the vindication of his own character, although Colonel Ironside seems to think it an act of recrimination in Major Hessman under the idea that he (Colonel Ironside) had been instrumental in causing his supercession in the temporary command of the brigade by the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Parker because the Major had written to him intimating this circumstance and threatening to retaliate the supposed injury.

44. As it would take up too much room to give you the detail of each charge and the particulars of Colonel Ironside's answers to them in so full a manner as will be necessary to enable you to form a decisive judgement upon them we beg leave to refer you to the original papers which are copied in the Consultation referred to in the margin.

6th December
27th do.

45. Colonel Ironside having acknowledged his fault and owned the justness of the grounds on which the accusations though (as he said) exaggerated were founded he requested that we would take them into consideration and pass our judgement upon them. In consideration of Colonel Ironside's long services and hitherto *irreproachable character* we were unwilling to let an officer of his high rank suffer the disgrace of a public trial, and having all the materials before us we took upon ourselves to publish our high disapprobation of his conduct with an order to the Paymaster to demand from him the several sums of money unduly charged and received by him or authorized to be paid by his orders.

46. We also thought it necessary to make public our disapprobation of the conduct of Captain Naylor, the Brigade Major, for his disobedience to the order of Major Hessman, his immediate commanding officer, when called upon by him to account for the deficient lascars and for the unbecoming style of his answer to that requisition.

47. We further revoked the brigade order issued by Colonel Parker on his arrival at Dinapore and confirmed that which had been previously published by Major Hessman. These steps we have taken of our own accord and hope they will be approved but we must beg leave to refer the ultimate determination on the case to your judgement.

48. The Military Paymaster General has not been able yet to adjust the accounts of the Second Brigade, the latest period to which he has received any being November 1774 notwithstanding his repeated applications for them to the deputy Paymaster, Mr. Pison, who is with the army in the field. We have ordered Mr. Pison to come down immediately to the Presidency and to bring with him every account and voucher

necessary for settling to the latest period. However, the Paymaster General acquaints us that at any rate it will not now be possible for him to prepare the annual books of his office for Europe before the first dispatch of the ships of next season.

49. Finding upon the perusal of a memorial from Lieutenant Jabez Mackenzie, with the remarks of the Town Major upon it, that Lieutenants Hesketh, Cust, Bremner, Mackenzie and Williams although appointed cadets by you in 1769 had been omitted in the regulation lately formed agreeably to your orders and mentioned in our last letter, because they did not arrive in India till June 1770 we have rectified this omission and caused their names to be inserted next under that of William Murray and before all the cadets appointed in Bengal in the same year.

50. Many of the subaltern officers of the artillery corps have also presented memorials, through the Commander-in-Chief, claiming rank on the foundation of your orders of 3 March 1775 in respect to cadets. As it appeared that commissions in this corps had been proffered in general orders to such cadets as might chuse to accept of them we determined that those who did accept them shall take rank of those who refused to do it, notwithstanding they might be under them on your list or appointed in the country in the same year; further that all cadets appointed by you who entered into the artillery should precede those who served as cadets with them in that corps but had received their original appointments in the country in the same year.

51. Lieutenant Peter Young is returned to this settlement and has produced a commission granted by you which places him next below Lieutenant Davies in the artillery corps; he is not mentioned in any advices which we have received from you but regarding the commission as authentic we have given him rank accordingly.

52. Ensign H.C. Palmer whom you restored without prejudice to his original rank had received no commission when he resigned the service to go home. We have, therefore, promoted him to the rank of ensign and fixed him next unto Ensign Mordaunt and above Ensign Burnet, in which place he stood on your list of cadets when you first appointed him to this establishment.

53. Major Wear has preferred a memorial to us asserting a claim to rank above Majors Hannay, Stainforth, A.F. Auchmuty and Ey.es; this memorial will be found in the Consultation referred to in
8th January 1776 the margin and we take the liberty to refer the pretensions of Major Wear to be decided by you.

54. We also beg leave to refer to your consideration the address of Major Whyte whom you have lately reappointed to the service with the rank of youngest major. He solicits to be allowed his original rank in the army, which would be next above Lieutenant Colonel Wilding, and he sets forth his pretensions to your indulgence in that address which is recorded on the same Consultation as the above.

55. The friends of Mrs. Redman, who is now in England, having

obtained a certificate of the services and good behaviour of her late husband who lately died in the station of assistant surgeon in the
 Consultation
 8th January 1776 sepoy corps of the 1st Brigade, which he had held since November 1769, we have approved the certificate and recommend the widow for the pension if you find her qualified to receive it.

56. Lieutenant James Broadbent has produced certificates of his being by ill health rendered unfit for further service in India and has taken the oath of qualification, he, therefore, resigns his commission in your service here and will proceed to Europe to prefer his claim to the pension.

57. Mr. Jarrett attorney on record for the Company desired that we would annex some salary to that office. We at first agreed to allow him £100 per annum but it appearing from a remonstrance which he made to us, upon the inadequacy of this sum, that many clients who either actually had or eventually might have actions with the Company or against their interests declined to employ him because he could not engage to act for them on all occasions and that some had already left him on that account, we, therefore, agreed to augment it in all to 300 rupees per month.

58. The council for Mr. George Williamson has lately moved the court for the Company to shew cause why the suit instituted against him should not be dismissed for want of proof. When a report of this was made to us we had recourse to the records and finding that many ineffectual attempts had been made by the late Council to procure evidence able to answer interrogatories which the Company's attorney, under the late Mayor's Court, had prepared for them and considering that the length of time which had elapsed made it now impossible to find witnesses to support the suit we have been under the necessity of ordering the attorney to suffer it to be dismissed.

59. In consequence of your orders of the 3rd March last we have adjusted the rank of Captain Thomas Gardiner of the engineer corps by placing him above Captain Penman.

60. Mr. George Vansittart, a member of the Board of Trade, and Mr. Lionel Darell have been permitted to resign the service and proceed to England with their families by the *Hilsborough*; they have both declared that their private affairs make their appearance in England necessary but they do not mean entirely to relinquish the service.

61. As Mr. Vansittart is security for the amount of a bond granted by Mr. Palk in the year 1769 for current rupees 36,457-12-11 for over charges in his accounts, whilst he held the office of *buxey*
 8rd January at Cossimbuzar, and as this with several other bonds had long been lying neglected in the Secretary's office we caused the amount to be demanded; those particular bonds will appear in the Consultation referred to in the margin.

62. Lieutenant Kemp Lawzun has obtained our leave to resign the Company's service and take his passage to Europe by a French ship.

63. Mr. Hugh Castlemain the senior pilot in your service here is obliged to go to Europe for the benefit of his health. The Master Attendant

has given him the character of being one of the most capable pilots in the service which he has been employed in 14 years and during that time always behaved well in the stations he has held. We, therefore, recommend him to your notice.

64. Lieutenant Thomas Green has delivered in a memorial addressed to you which we forward a number in the packet by the *Hilborough*. We thought it proper to lay before you at the same time an impartial state of his case and, therefore, called upon the Town Major whose report is also sent in the packet. This memorial is merely a recapitulation of what Lieutenant Green represented to the Board of Officers in a former letter on which their determination will be found in the proceedings of that Board on the 14th May 1773.

65. Mr. Hay and Mr. Whitelock, two of the Writers whom you have appointed this season, are arrived.

66. Since the date of our last letter Mr. William Douglas Senior, one of your servants, died suddenly.

67. We have ordered 25 discharged soldiers on board the *Hilborough* as charterparty passengers and 21 men on board the *Godfrey*, particular lists of their names will be found numbers in the packets by each ship, and on the Consultations wherein it will also appear that some have obtained certificates for the pension. The passage of all these people has been paid for here.

68. The balance in your treasuries and mint on this day, as stated in the foregoing part of this letter, is current rupees 45,77,803-0-9 and in the cash current rupees 401-5-6.

69. Registers of the bills of exchange and certificates granted by these ships are sent numbers in their respective packets.

Fort William,
15th January 1776.

We are with respect,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful
humble servants,
Warren Hastings
J. Clavering
Geo. Monson
Richd. Barwell
P. Francis.

LETTER DATED 20 MARCH 1776

Request from China Supracargoes for specie—engagement with Raja Chait Singh for supply of saltpetre cancelled—news of Mr. Herbert, late of Balambangan—Lacca cloth lost owing to ship-wreck—orders sought on three

Europeans who attempted to enter Nawab's dominions—Court's judgment in favour of Stewart—obstruction to Maj. Tolley in digging canal—Iaccam's plan to build harbour in Chafnel Creek—contracts concluded for supply of gunpowder and barrels—plan for opening a new passage in the Hooghly—new mode of supplying military stores adopted—plan for standard distribution of commission on revenues—objection to methods, proposed by Board of Trade, of raising supplies of saltpetre through gumashtas in territories of Raja Chait Singh and Asafud-Daulah.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We have now the honor to forward to you by the *Talbot* the general Proceedings and books of this Presidency for the last year excepting those of the military Paymaster General which, from the cause mentioned in our last letter, could not be got ready in time for this dispatch.

2. Our last advices under date the 15th January were transmitted in duplicate by the ships *Hilborough* and *Godfrey*. We have since received your command by the *Grenville* dated 12th April 1775.

3. The invoice of goods laden on the *Talbot* amounts to current rupees 16,02,800, which added to the sum of the cargoes already consigned to you this season will make the compleat amount of the investment from this Presidency current rupees 72,42,100.

4. We have been under the necessity of desiring Captain Snow to furnish thirty casks of provision for the use of the soldiers, whom we have embarked for Bombay, and have given him a letter to the President and Council at St. Helena requesting that they will supply him with a like quantity if he should have occasion for it.

5. We lately received an application from your Supercargoes at China to furnish them with as large a supply of cash as our occasions will permit, they having been disappointed in the receipt of between 5 and 6 lacks of dollars which had been offered to them for drafts on you and afterwards disposed of in a different manner by the owners, as the season is far advanced and we have no direct mode of granting supplies for your China investment unless by the remittance of specie which, if possible, we could wish to avoid the most eligible means that occurred to us were to invite private persons to pay their money into the treasury at Canton for bills of exchange on you and we have accordingly advertized to grant certificates, which shall entitle the holders to a preference in the receipt of their money at China for such bills. The sum to be fixed by them and they to engage in a penalty of 10 per cent to pay the same into the cash at China within any stipulated time not exceeding twelve months.

6. In compliance with the opinion of the Board of Trade that the terms offered by Raja Cheyt Sing for the delivery of 4000 maunds of seltpetre annually at Patna were disadvantageous and that the quantity was too small to be an object worth obtaining we have declined the enga-

gement which we intended to make with him taking only whatever quantity he might have previously prepared in consequence of our desire.

7. The proposals, mentioned in our last to have been delivered by Mr. Gevaud, for manufacturing the saltpetre produced in Bahar were deemed ineligible by the Board of Trade and consequently rejected. Their reasons for which will be seen on their Proceedings.

8. On the particular application of the Board of Trade for sepoy guards to be stationed at their factories of Radnagore and Kierpoy, which they represented at that time to be infested with robbers
 Consultation 20th February we granted them but having since established regulations for the police of the country, in which are included the situations necessary for posting proper guards under the direction of the *fazdars* to maintain the peace of the country, we shall find it requisite to employ them on this service and have, therefore, resolved to withdraw the sepoys from the Commercial Department on the first of May next, in the mean while we have recommended it to the Board of Trade to hire *bandussies* or common peons who will equally well answer any service in which they at present employ the sepoys.

9. We have received and complied with an indent from Fort Marlborough for the same quantity of stores nearly as have been annually sent to that Presidency.

10. We also received from them and forwarded to Fort St. George a large packet addressed to that Presidency from Mr. Herbert and the Council late of Balambangan which contained as we suppose, all the particulars respecting the loss of that island. We understand that the duplicate of this packet was forwarded to you immediately from Fort Marlborough; and Lieutenant I.L. Reid who commanded the troops at Balambangan having been sent on this vessel that a court martial might be held upon him at Fort St. George for disobedience of orders, we directed him to proceed thither to stand his trial accordingly.

11. Messrs. Broff and Salmon the gentlemen appoint to receive charge of Company's affairs from Mr. Herbert etc., at Lamboan addressed us from Malacca, and found it necessary to draw on us, for six hundred dollars to pay for a supply of provisions and necessaries for the remainder of their voyage.

12. The President and Council Fort Saint George had shipped on board the *Diana* 180 bales of Lacca cloth which we applied to them for, to make up clothing for the army and it was lost in that ship off Pulicat. The *Grenville's* packet for this place was also on board but fortunately saved from the wreck; as you have not lately sent any Lacca cloth to this Presidency we were under the necessity of applying in this instance to the President and Council at Fort St. George, but in order to obviate it in future, we request that you will order an annual supply to be sent us.

13. It appears by the letter addressed to you from the Board of Trade that a part of the *Grenville's* cargo for this Presidency was also lost in the *Diana* of which they had not been informed by us. As we have not

received any account of it from the President and Council at Fort St. George: we were ignorant of it ourselves and of course had it not in our power to advise the Board of Trade.

14. We take this opportunity of forwarding a compleat sett of maps of the Company's provinces and of the dominions of the Nabob Asoph-ul-doulah formed and drawn by Major Rennell your Surveyor General which will of themselves, without any commendation on our part, sufficiently manifest his merit and abilities in that line; however, we cannot avoid this occasion (in which we acquaint you that the surveys of the country have been entirely compleated) to repeat how highly deserving we think Major Rennell of your favour and bounty.

15. The alteration which has taken place since our last in the state of our bonded debt will appear on comparison thereof with the following which is the total amount of it this day, *viz.*,

Bearing interest at 5 per cent current rupees	25,01,128- 2
-do- 8 per cent	88,382-12-3
Not bearing any interest	18,97,049- 0-6
	<hr/>
	44,86,559-14-9
Interest due	1,90,777-12-1
	<hr/>

Current rupees 46,77,337-10-10

16. In our last address from the Secret Department dated 15 January, we advised you of the Proceedings of the Supreme Court of Judicature on the motion of Joseph Pavesy for a writ of habeas corpus and that we had consequently applied to the Chief of Patna for authentic vouchers and evidence of his offences. On receipt of these they were exhibited in court, but as the Governor General could not take upon himself to affirm them in his return, to the writ, the court ordered the man to be released.

17. A case has since happened at Patna in which the Chief applied to us for directions. Vernon Duffield, formerly an officer in your service, Edward Deake and James McGee had been seized under the disguise of Moorish dresses in attempting to pass into the dominions of the Nabob and were brought to Patna where the Chief had confined them, under a guard, in order to send them down to the Presidency, but when he ordered them to be put on board the boat, which had been got ready for their reception, they barricaded the door of the bungalow in which they were lodged and prepared to make a resistance declaring they would not submit to be taken; they were in this situation when the Chief of Patna wrote to us and we have thought it necessary to consult your standing counsel upon the right and legal power of this Government to remove them from Patna and to send them to England before we give any final orders concerning them.

18. As it does not seem clear to us that either by the Act of Parlia-



Elijah Impey

ment or by the Charter a power is given to the judge to issue a writ of habeas corpus we submit it to your opinion to take the sentiments of your standing counsel on this point.

19. We have in our former letters advised you of the suit instituted by Mr. Stewart our late Secretary in the Supreme Court against his successor Mr. Auriol and of its progress to the period of our last dispatch. The Court have since given judgement upon it, in which Messrs. Chambers and Hyde were of opinion that Mr. Stewart had no right to the claim which he has made and Sir Elijah Impey and Mr. Le Maistre that he had upon the principle, as we understand, of the want of due form in the mode of his dismission, *viz.*, that the charge should have given to him in writing and proper time allowed him to make his defence; of course the casting voice of the Chief Justice carried the decision in favour of Mr. Stewart. Mr. Auriol has ordered a petition of appeal to be drawn out and means if possible to transmit it to England by this ship.

20. We have already stated our opinion, to you so fully on the conduct of Mr. Stewart and the fatal consequences which it may produce to your service if appeal is allowed to the court of justice from a resolution of your representatives here to dismiss or suspend any of your servants whom you have placed under our authority, or if we are to be accountable for our obedience to your instructions to any authority but yours, that we deem it unnecessary to add anything further on the subject but most earnestly recommend it to your consideration.

21. As the issue of the present appeal is of more importance to the rights of the company than to the individual, who is immediately the object of the suit, we submit it to your judgement whether it would not be adviseable to order it to be conducted and supported by your attorney and counsel.

22. In consequence of the remark made by the auditor of Indian accounts in his letter, dated 30 March 1775, that 80,000 rupees which had been advanced to Mr. Cartier on accounts of his commission of the revenues 19th November 1770 had never been accounted for an enquiry was made into the fact by which it appeared that the last dividend of commission, being 77,810 rupees to Mr. Cartier, had not been received by him and a short time before his departure for Europe he paid the difference between this sum and the sum advanced him into the treasury but a receipt nevertheless appeared in the treasury book for 77,810 current rupees signed by Ramgopaul Day on account of Mr. Cartier's share in the commission; we have thought it necessary to call on Mr. Bright who was Sub-Treasurer at the period when this payment was made for an explanation particularly as the present servants of that office declare that it was paid to his *banyan* Ram Baboo. By a letter just received from Mr. Bright, to which we beg leave to refer, he denies having any remembrance of the transaction and offers immediately to come to the Presidency to enquire into the particulars if we insist upon it, notwithstanding the apprehension he lies under from some of his creditors, but as

he had dismissed Ram Baboo from his service he requests; that we will call upon him to account for it. We have, therefore, ordered the Secretary to enquire for him.

23. Major Tolley met with some obstruction in digging his proposed canal from the attorney of Major Watson who enclosed the spot of ground between the wall of the docks and Surmon's Bridge in order to prevent the Major from carrying the water of his canal through that bridge as he had intended. He was under the necessity, therefore, of applying to us for assistance, and as it did not appear that Major Watson possessed any right to the grounds which had been enclosed we ordered that the paling should be pulled down and a sufficient quantity of ground on each side of the nullah delivered to Major Tolley to enable him to compleat his original plan of excavation.

24. The attorney of Major Watson complained to us that the execution of this work be prejudicial to his dock, by depriving him of a reserve of the back water in the nulla, we acquainted him that the docks had been so far considered by us that in the grant of the nulla to Major Tolley we had expressly stipulated that Major Watson should be allowed a right to the back water, on erecting flood gates for conveying it at his own expence, meaning this, however, purely as an indulgence to him as no reservation of the water of the nulla had ever before been made to him by Government.

25. We have granted a tract of jungle and waste land, containing 400 *beyrs* near the mouth of Channel Creek to Mr. Lacam which he proposes to improve and cultivate that in time he may be able to settle such inhabitants upon it as will be necessary to carry on his business in that creek and of which we notice in a former at the new harbour which he is forming letter since that date he has obtained and delivered to us the sentiments of Sir John Clerke, a very old commander in His Majesty's navy, upon the situation and expected utility of his work to which we take the liberty to refer you, and we forward by the packet an address to your Honourable Court from Mr. Lacam accompanied by a plan of his works which we recommend to your consideration.

Consultation
26th February

Board of Inspection

26. Proposals having been submitted to the Board of Ordnance by Mr. Robert Stewart, the Superintendant of the Powder Manufactory, for contracting to supply the Honourable Company with Gunpowder at a fixed price which proposals being approved of by them were referred to us and the same appearing calculated to produce a considerable saving in the expense of this article, as more particularly appears by Mr. Stewart's estimate of the cost of the gunpowder imported from Europe for the Company's use compared with the terms offered by him. We agreed to accept of his proposals, on the conditions concluded upon by the Board of Ordnance, for the term of

25th January

three years commencing on the first of January last from which time all expences on the part of the Company are to cease and to be solely on account of the contractor.

27. Proposals were likewise laid before the Board of Ordnance by Mr. Joshua Nixon for the above contract but rejected by them for the reasons set forth in their proceedings of the 10th January and recorded on the Consultations of this Department of the 25th of the same month. But as it appeared that the contract proposed to be entered into with Mr. Stewart, which included also the furnishing the Company with powder barrels, would interfere with the contract already held by Mr. Nixon for this article, and that, therefore, he had a claim of consideration before any other proposals of the same nature were accepted, we resolved to make an offer to Mr. Nixon of supplying the Company with barrels on the conditions and terms agreed to by Mr. Stewart and we understand by a letter received from the Board of Ordnance, which has not yet come formally before us, that he has accepted of our offer.

28. The contract with Mr. Stewart has not been yet executed but the draft is recorded on our proceedings abovementioned to which we beg leave to refer, and as soon as that with Mr. Nixon shall have been concluded our proceedings upon this subject will be selected and transmitted to you conformably to your orders.

29. We have the honour to transmit a number in this packet our proceedings on the several contracts mentioned in the 58th paragraph of our address by the *Salisbury* entered in a book apart for that purpose.

30. You will have been informed by our proceedings already transmitted by the *Salisbury* of the instructions we had judged it necessary to give to the Council of Dacca to stop the making *churam* at Sylhet on the Company's account and of our orders to Mr. Richardson, the agent there, and contractor for transporting it to the Presidency, to adjust and close his accounts. The representation which Mr. Richardson made, in consequence, to the Council of Dacca respecting the prolongation of his contract beyond the period specified in our orders was also regularly entered upon our proceedings and transmitted to you.

31. The subject was again resumed in consequence of a representation on the part of Mr. Richardson at our meeting of the 25th January, to which day's proceedings we beg leave to refer for the conditions upon which we agreed to the continuance of the contract for the further term of two years in consideration of the engagements which the late Government had contracted with Mr. Richardson and which we could not equitably annul.

32. When the necessary addition shall have been made to the contract it will be recorded upon our proceeding and pointed out to your notice as well as the brick contract which, though it has not yet been executed in form owing to some delay of the attorney, continues to be regularly complied with by the contractor.

33. Our Proceedings on the former subject will be also entered apart those upon the latter are forwarded in the seperate book by this ship.

34. The contract with the late Mr. Hancock for furnishing the Company with gun carriages as well as that for carpenters, smiths and brass work having both expired on the 1st December
22nd February publication was made for receiving Proposals to contract for these works for the space of three years in the same form with the old contracts.

35. In consequence thereof several proposals have been delivered to us, but the dispatch of this ship has prevented our opening and coming to a determination upon them.

36. It appearing by the report of Lieutenant Call who was deputed to Chunar to survey the buildings and barracks of that garrison, as well as by the information given us by the Governor General on the subject, that they were incapable of any repair that should put them in a durable state we have authorized them to be rebuilt and made Lieutenant Call an offer of the contract for the building for the sum specified
15th February in an estimate transmitted by him of the expence with which this service will be attended being 28,700 *sonant* rupees.

37. Captain Kyd your Town Major having, in consequence of orders he received from us for that purpose, laid before us a statement
8th February of the present establishment of the army under this Presidency, agreeable to the general orders with their pay, *batta* and allowances we think it incumbent on us to notice to you the clear and elegant form in which this work has been executed, which, we are sensible from its intricate nature and extent, could not have been done without very considerable labour and application, and to point Captain Kyd out as an officer deserving any mark of approbation which you may be pleased to shew him.

38. Mr. John Ritchie having been recommended to us by the Governor General as a fit person to be employed in executing a plan which he had laid before us of a new survey of the river
29th February between the Long Sand and Gasper Sand and for placing buoys along the east side of the former, for the purpose of opening a new and safe navigation for ships, which might be practicable at all times of the year, but especially for vessels leaving this port in the southern monsoons, we have accordingly appointed him upon this service and we hope the advantages expected from it will justify any trouble and expence that may be incurred on this account.

39. In conformity to what we advised you in our address by the *Hillsborough* we have now the pleasure to present to you a general abstract of the expences of the fortifications of Fort William for the last year formed agreebly to the mode pointed out in that letter. The proportion of the established charges is carried to each seperate work and at the end is shewn the final charge in the course of the year. By the grand total you

will also observe that the sum expended on the fortification in the course of the year 1775 has been current rupees 5266.9 less than the annual sum appropriated for this service.

40. The Chief Engineer accompanied the above abstract with a plan of Fort William representing the state it was in the month of December 1774, the works that were compleated in the year 1775 and those to be executed in 1776, which we have also the honor to transmit a number in this packet.

41. The Commander-in-Chief in consequence of a visit made by him to the forts at Budge Budge recommended to us the excavation of the ditch round the principal fort there, called Brunswicke, on which the protection of the smaller forts depend, which we have accordingly authorized. He also submitted his opinion to us that some further precautions would be requisite for the security of these forts in case of an attack upon them from the land. We have received a letter from the Chief Engineer upon the same subject, with estimates of the expence for putting these works in a proper state of defence but they have not as yet come under our consideration.

42. A disagreement having arisen with the contractor relative to the receipt of the stores tendered by him for the use of the works not being equal in quality to the musters conformable to which they were to be delivered we beg leave to refer you to our Proceedings noted in the margin on this subject, particularly to the examination taken before our Board of the Chief Engineer, contractor, Storekeeper of the works and the Storekeeper's *banian*.

43. The dispute has not been yet settled but in order to prevent the great prejudice which the service must have suffered and the expence which the Company must have incurred if the works at the New Fort had been put a stop to, at this time, the Storekeeper has been authorized to receive, for the present, such stores from the contractor as the Chief Engineer and himself may approve of notwithstanding they may not be agreeable to the musters.

44. In the course of this inquiry some engagement were produced to us by Govindram, the Storekeeper's *banian* which had been drawn up assigning the contract over to one Ramhurry Tagore, but it appeared by the *banian's* evidence that the deeds were never executed owing to some disputes which had arisen between the contractor and him and that the matter had been settled in consideration of Ramhurry's paying the contractor the sum of 3,000 rupees.

45. In consequence of a representation made to us by Mr. Wadsworth, the present Storekeeper, of an overcharge upon *ch'nam*, and several other articles to the amount of 1200 rupees in the accounts of his office for one month, which he informed us was intended for the emolument of the Storekeeper and of which 800 rupees was brought to his credit. we examined both him and his *banian*,

23rd February who was also *banian* to the former Storekeeper, relative to this transaction when the *banian* acknowledging that he could furnish the particulars of the overcharge of which he had informed the Storekeeper he was ordered to deliver in the account, and such explanation as should be required to him.

46. It also appeared by the voluntary declarations of the *banian*, on his examination, that Mr. Darrell the late Storekeeper had constantly appropriated to himself 1 rupee 4 annas or 5 parts in 22 of the charge for cooley hire on *churam* and that, in fact, only 4 rupees 4 annas for every hundred maunds was paid to the contractor for coolies whereas the Company were charged at the rate of 5 rupees 8 annas per hundred maunds. The Comptroller of the Offices on examining the Storekeeper's accounts has ordered the overcharge upon this account in the months of November, December and January to be refunded and brought to the Company's credit and has given positive injunctions for preventing the continuance of it in future. In the Comptroller's diary you will see what further orders he has given on this subject with a view to discover whether any other profits were exacted by the late Storekeeper from the coolies employed in the other branches of his Department or if any other irregular charges have been introduced into the accounts of the late Storekeeper.

47. The salary of the Secretary of the Board of Inspection not having been regulated when the appointments were fixed for the Secretary and assistants of the other departments in the arrangements of the last year it was proposed by the Governor General to increase the allowance of 150 rupees annexed to that office to 600 rupees per month, being in the exact proportion of the salaries of the other secretaries. The proposition was agreed to and our opinions upon the subject are entered on the Proceedings of the 15th February. We must observe that the salary has taken place only from the date of the appointment and not from the establishment of this Government as was the case with the secretaries of the other offices. We must further remark that he has not the advantage of living in any house belonging to the Company or hired by them nor does he derive any other emoluments whatsoever from his office.

48. The Commissary General having objected to audit Colonel Stibbert's bills for his pay and *batta*, none having been drawn by Colonel
22nd February Champion who was allowed £750 per annum as a member of the Council, Colonel Stibbert addressed us upon the subject stating his pretensions to these charges in consequence of our resolution of 6th November last by which he was permitted to draw the pay, *batta* and allowances which were enjoyed by Colonel Champion, late
20th do. Commander-in-Chief, excepting the $5\frac{1}{4}$ shares of the commission on the revenue and the appointments annexed to a commander of a brigade. We accordingly ordered an account to be prepared of the allowances drawn monthly by Colonel Champion, which being laid before us the Governor General proposed the reducing Colonel

Stibbert's allowances to a fixed monthly sum including, all contingencies and it has been finally fixed at 5000 *sonant* rupees per month, exclusive of 1333-1-4 for secret service which we consider as actually expended by Colonel Stibbert and to be accounted for by him if demanded.

49. As our opinions have differed upon this subject we beg leave to refer you to the proceedings of the 29th February in which the Governor General's proposition and our opinions stand recorded, and as the subject has been concluded since closing our Proceedings for this dispatch our subsequent opinions and determination are transmitted a separate number in this packet.

Board of Ordnance

50. The Governor General and Council having constituted us a Board of Ordnance for the reasons and purposes already communicated by them and also entered at large in the beginning of our Consultations, we have now the honor of transmitting for your information a copy of our Proceedings from the institution of the Board till the beginning of February last and we beg leave to direct your attention to our principal transactions by the following general summary account thereof.

51. After requiring returns to be made to us of all the ordnance and military stores in the settlement and after appointing officers of ordnance to the several stations, under plain and explicit orders framed for their guidance and direction, we deputed Captain Stone of the artillery on a circuit to survey the stores in all the magazines from Chittagong to Chunargur.

52. In this we had three things in view—first to obtain an exact account of the present distribution of the ordnance, arms and ammunition etc., so as to be the better enabled to form a judgement of such alterations in the arrangements, disposition and proportions there as may be most conducive to the defence and security of the country. Secondly, the quantity of stores returned as *repairable* and *unserviceable* being very considerable we deemed it proper to obtain accurate information of the real state thereof, from the inspection and report of an officer acquainted with the qualities and properties of the several articles, before we should determine what ought to be repaired at the subordinate stations, what sent to the Presidency for that purpose and what unserviceable articles might be worth the expence of transporting thither either to be converted to different uses in the laboratory and arsenal or sold or returned to Europe, and thirdly it was necessary to obtain such information in order to ascertain the balance of stores actually existing so as to open books with the several magazines.

53. Captain Stone has been employed upon that service since May last but owing to the extent of the circuit and the necessity of examining and arranging the variety of stores in the magazines he has not hitherto been able to survey any higher than Monghyr. We expect, however, that he will finish his business in such due season as that we shall have full

time after the opening of the river to lodge proper assortments of stores at the subordinate stations and to withdraw such as are either superfluous or unfit for service or not suited to the purposes for which they were intended.

54. From the report already transmitted to us it appears that even the officers entrusted with the charges of magazines have hitherto had but very imperfect accounts of the stores under their charge because they generally relied entirely on the returns delivered to them by the persons whom they relieved without any examination of the quantities in stores, but we have issued such orders as we are persuaded, will effectually correct this negligence which occasioned great irregularities and was the more dangerous that it might mislead administration with respect to the quantity of stores at the different stations to answer emergent services.

55. The Sub-Accomptant sent us a copy of some remarks made by the auditor of Indian accounts pointing out the irregularity of charging the expence of ordnance and stores under the heads of the fortifications and intimating your desire that the ordnance and stores belonging to this Presidency should be valued.

56. We are happy to have in some measure anticipated your wishes in this respect by the orders for surveying the stores and opening books with the magazines, as we shall thereby in future be enabled not only to furnish you with a general account of the actual yearly consumption of stores at this Presidency and its dependencies but also the particulars of the expenditures at each magazine and station under its proper head, and this will obviate the possibility of these charges being blended as heretofore with the expence of the fortifications.

57. When the survey shall have been finished and the stores properly arranged we shall proceed to estimate the value of them preparatory thereto. We have already obtained an account from the Store-keeper of the medium prices at which they have been charged in the books of the office for the last five years, but being apprehensive that these rates exceed the real worth of the stores and especially of many articles which, though returned under the head *serviceable*, have been rendered of less value by use and length of time we have directed the Commissary of Stores to furnish us with an estimate, according to the best of his judgement, of the intrinsic worth of the various articles of stores and we shall from the whole form such account as we hope will nearly approach to a just valuation.

58. The contracts for supplying stores to the Military Department having expired in July last we published advertizements inviting new proposals, and having received several submitted them to the Board of Inspection who, in consideration of the inconveniencies which were represented to have attended the former method of supply, adopted that of an agency as the most eligible and an agreement was accordingly entered into for one year from the 1st September last.

59. About the same time that the late contracts for military stores

expired the supplying of stores to the troops in the field and at the subordinate stations by the Commissary General was discontinued and the Commissaries of Musters, under the denomination of Commissaries of Supplies, have since furnished the petty stores at such reduced rates and under such restrictions as we are confident will very considerably moderate the contingent expence of the army.

60. It having been represented to us that there is no proper magazine at Dacca to secure stores in, and it being of importance to have a sufficiency lodged there for the defence of the factory and for such emergent services as may occur in that part of the country, we have obtained the sanction of the Governor General and Board of Inspection for erecting a small magazine in the most commodious situation at that place. And the magazines at Budge Budge and Berhampore having been reported so damp as to have damaged the powder kept in them we directed the Chief Engineer to inspect and repair the former and have ordered proper measures to be taken with the other in the least expensive manner.

61. The Commissary of Stores having represented to us that the business of the office was greatly retarded and that many inconveniences attended the storekeeper's having a joint charges with him, even in such stores as he was in the use of granting receipts for, to the Storekeeper and for which he was likewise answerable by return, we thought proper to remove the embarrassments complained of, the Commissary being, in our opinion, under sufficient checks by the necessity of presenting his indents to this Board before he can obtain supplies and of also receiving our authority before he can make any issues.

62. Several owners of vessels sailing from this port having applied to us for supplies of ordnance arms for and the defence of their ships, and being informed that it has been usual to grant these indulgencies as an encouragement to commerce we have, by permission of the Board of Inspection, complied with such applications of this nature as have been occasionally made to us on the conditions prescribed in our orders to the Storekeeper.

63. The expence incurred in amunition for salutes and morning and evening guns at the factories and subordinate stations and even by almost every detachment of the army appearing to us to be very unnecessary we have strictly enforced an order prohibiting the firing of salutes and of morning and evening guns excepting at the garrisons of Fort William, Monghyr and Chunar and the brigade stations, and we have considerably diminished the expence even at these places by restricting the quantity of powder to one fourth of the weight of shot.

64. The proportion of powder formerly allowed for annual exercise, being 2140 barrels of 100 lbs. each exclusive of 120 barrels for the artillery practice, appeared nearly to exceed our imports from England and the quantity hitherto made at the Company's works here it was considered absolutely necessary to make every retrenchment that could

possibly be effected consistently with the attention due to the discipline of the troops.

65. Accordingly we have restricted the number of firings at field days to 15 rounds and the weight of musket cartridges to 5 drams in place of six, and as the troops of the two brigades within the provinces cannot assemble to practice in brigade the proportion of ammunition which was allowed for that purpose is struck off. Thus we have reduced the complement of exercising powder for the army to 675 barrels including an allowance for the guns of twenty one battalions of sepoys attached to the brigades for which no provision was formerly made at field days, and calculating 115 barrels more for the extra practice of the troops in the field the annual consumption of gun powder will not exceed one third of the quantity heretofore allowed for practise. By this means there arises a large yearly saving of expence besides the advantage of having it in our power to provide for the safety of the country by laying up sufficient quantities of powder in the magazines.

66. We took occasion some time ago to recommend to you, through the Board of Inspection, to furnish this Presidency with regular supplies of cartridge paper and of the best white oiled flints, the greatest part of the flints usually sent out being found unfit for service. And we are sorry to be now under the necessity of acquainting you that the quality of the arms which have been sent out is by no means so good as could have been wished. About ten thousand of the new muskets in the arsenal, being old pattern arms of the years 1765, 6, 7, 8 & 9, are extremely bad being fitted up with small, weak, ill-tempered locks and their stocks so exceedingly brittle that out of the compliment of a battalion issued a few weeks ago (of the arms of 1768) no less than 40 were reported broken or damaged the first field day. We need not remark how indispensibly necessary it is that your troops should be supplied with arms upon which they can depend with confidence in times of service and that your arsenal should be well stored in order to afford these supplies, as occasion may require, for that purpose. We recommend it to you to comply with the indent transmitted from this Presidency in the beginning of 1774 as there will be otherwise a scarcity of arms that can be relied on.

67. The troops being in great want of drums and fifes and it being found practicable to make them here on reasonable terms we have entered into an agreement for that purpose, not only because we believe that you will consider it proper to encourage every manufacture that can tend to lessen our demand for warlike stores from Europe but because many of the articles which we receive from thence are too frequently either originally of indifferent quality or damaged in the course of transportation; to one of which circumstances it must be owing that almost all the apparatus (for drums) sent out last season excepting the shells were totally unfit for any service.

68. Having made every enquiry in our power regarding the various charges which attended your powder works in times past we found that

the quantity of powder manufactured was by no means adequate to the large amount of the aggregate expence. With a view to reduce it to the bounds of moderation we framed such regulations respecting that department as we imagined would best answer the purpose.

69. Very soon thereafter we received proposals from Mr. Stewart for supplying powder and 100 lbs. barrels by contract and at rates so much below the usual cost that we determined to enter into engagements with him.

70. Accordingly we drew up the form of a contract in which every check and every improvement we could devise was provided for, particularly an obligation to double refine all the saltpetre to be used at the works and we consider this of material consequence because the durability of powder depends upon the purity of the saltpetre in the composition.

71. After having thus framed the contract which it was resolved should be entered into with Mr. Stewart we received propositions from Mr. Nixon for furnishing powder packed in barrels, lined with tin foil, at the rate of 40 rupees per barrell but besides that our resolution to contract with Mr. Stewart had passed almost a month before the receipt of Mr. Nixon's proposal and could not, with any degree of propriety, be receded from, it was our opinion that Mr. Stewart could not be divested of his office of powder maker without a manifest breach of your orders, and as he agreed to supply the same barrels at 13 rupes for which Mr. Nixon demanded 17 the difference between their proposals was reduced to 3 rupees per barrel; this we considered would be nearly balanced by the salary charges for *sircars*, writers and stationary etc., which we must have continued to pay to Mr. Stewart as Superintendant if the contract had gone into other hands. It was, therefore, our unanimous determination to adhere to the terms which had been agreed upon with him and we submitted our proceedings, with the draft of the contract and Mr. Nixon's proposals, to the consideration of the Board of Inspection who approved of the engagements proposed with Mr. Stewart for the supply of powder, but recommended that an offer should be made to Mr. Nixon to furnish the barrels, and he has accepted thereof on the terms agreed to by Mr. Stewart.

72. By the contract now concluded we shall be supplied with powder of superior quality to any that was ever manufactured here, and at a rate so much lower than the former cost that we may venture to affirm a saving will arise to the Company of at least cent per cent.

73. As the contractor's profit will depend upon the quantity of good powder he manufactures we can have no doubt that he will furnish us with as much as possible and it seems to be of the least importance that we shall be thereby in a great measure rendered independent of foreign supplies, this will be more evident if you will be pleased to attend to the information of the Commandant of Artillery and Commissary of Stores regarding the bad state of the powder usually received from England the greatest part whereof they have found to be unfit for service till remade

here, which has been attended with a heavy expence.

74. With respect to the new agreement with Mr. Nixon we beg leave to observe that the powder will be secured against the pernicious effects of the damps and that the Company derives this additional advantage from it of paying only 13 rupees for barrels lined with foil and hooped with copper instead of 14 rupees as formerly for barrels without any foil.

75. We thought proper to be particular in our account of the transaction from a desire of pointing out its advantages and lest the seeming difference between the proposals of Messrs. Stewart and Nixon might induce you to imagine that we had not been sufficiently attentive to oeconomy.

76. The Governor General and Council having applied to us for information respecting the quantity of arms the arsenal will contain we transmitted to them a copy of the report presented to us by the Commissary of Stores. Here we think it in place to acquaint you that being very desirous to have the arsenal compleated we consented to allow an additional number of artificers for that purpose, and you will be satisfied of the propriety of our having done so when informed that the Commissary computes the yearly damage arising from the want of it at about 50,000 rupees, but even independant of that consideration it is of importance to have the arsenal finished because the places where the stores are now kept are required for other necessary purposes and because while the various articles are crowded together in promiscuous heaps it will be impossible for the Commissary to carry on the business of his department with satisfaction to himself or advantage to the service.

77. Although Captain Stone has not compleated his survey of the subordinate magazines and although from the circumstances just mentioned regarding the stores belonging to the general magazine it is impracticable to have so exact an account of all the particulars as might be wished, we have thought it proper to furnish you with as distinct an account of all the stores returned *serviceable* as in the present situation of affairs could be made out.

78. Owing to the want of knowledge of the name of stores the same articles have been returned under different heads at almost every magazine in the settlement which rendered it exceedingly difficult to reduce them to a general view, and notwithstanding the attention and application bestowed in endeavouring to form the accompanying return with accuracy yet as all the magazines have not been surveyed we cannot venture to affirm that every article is really *serviceable* or that some of them are not twice entered under different denominations. It contains an account of the ordnance and stores in the general magazine and attached to the artillery at Fort William and Budge Budge, of the ordnance and stores at Barampore, Cossimbuzar, Monghyr, Patna, magazine and garrison, Dinapore, Bororea, Buxar, Chunar, in the field, at Burdwan, Midnapore, Dacca, Luckipore and Islambad, and we also trouble you with copies of the last returns received

of arms and accoutrements, etc., of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigades, 4th and 5th companies of artillery, corps of light infantry, 22nd Battalion of *sepoys* invalids at the Presidency and Chunar, militia at the Presidency, Burdwan, Dacca, Moradbagh, and Patna and of ordnance and stores served out to shipping on deposit.

79. Besides the ordnance and stores entered on these returns there are considerable quantities in the magazines under the heads *Repairable and Unserviceable*. When all the surveys are compleated we shall transmit you a list of these stores, and that you may be perfectly satisfied they are not entered under the above heads without sufficient reasons; copies of those assigned by the surveying officer shall be preserved for your information.

80. In the meantime, together with our Consultations No. 1 and the abovementioned returns No. 2 and 3 we transmit No. 4 Index to the Consultation Book, No. 5 Letter Book referred to in the margins of No. 1, being copies of the letters dispatched in consequence of our minutes, No. 6 Index to the Letter Book and No. 7 copy of our standing orders and regulations.

81. Referring you to our Consultations for other particulars we shall avoid troubling you here with any further recital of our Proceedings. We flatter ourselves that the regulations which we have formed regarding returns, indents, accounts of receipts and issues and expenditure of stores, the offices of Commissary of Stores and Storekeeper, the duties of Commissaries of Ordnance and Supplies and in general every part of our minutes will fully testify how studious we have been to introduce economy and regularity, and we hope that by our extending our views to other matters we shall hereafter give additional proofs of our attention to the interest of the Company that we shall evince how desirous we are of answering the salutary purposes for which the Board was established.

Company Servants

82. Mr. Bristow, finding the accumulated business of his station as Resident at the Nabob's court added to the duties of his new office of Paymaster to the officers employed in the Nabob's service too heavy for him to transact without assistance, has been obliged to apply to us for aid and we have in consequence appointed Messrs. Chandler and Hill to be employed under him.

83. We have now made a compleat regulation and distribution of the commission on the revenues allowing to the field officers within the establishment, fixed by your orders, the full sums which they ought to have received from the period when the shares of the supernumeraries were first retained in deposit and striking off from the present shares of those who were supernumeraries, the surplusses which they received in that capacity, for the sake of referring as a standard to this distribution by which all the former accounts are rectified, we have entered it on the proceedings referred to in the margin.

84. We have permitted Captain Wm. Thompson, at his request, to

resign the Company's service, and in consideration of his having held the command of the Select Picquet and executed that difficult duty to the satisfaction of his superiors, Mr. Cartier and Brigadier General Sir Robert Barker, who had each separately persuaded him to continue in that station against his solicitations by the promise of annexing to it an adequate gratuity we agreed to allow him to draw 8 rupees per diem for the period in which he commanded that corps.

85. In the month of September last Ensign I. Stewart of the 3rd Regiment applied to his commanding officer Colonel Ironside for permission to come down to the Presidency from Dinahpore to resign the Company's service and by a letter from him, afterwards written to the Colonel, it appears that he repeated and confirmed this resolution and declared it to be his real intention to resign and upon these grounds he was allowed to repair to Calcutta. After his arrival here he altered his mind and was desirous of repealing the inadvertant resolution which he had made but we thought it fit to accept his first declaration as a formal and deliberate resignation, deeming him a person whose general conduct did not merit any act of favour and who would do little credit to the service if allowed to continue in it.

86. Ensign Rees Davies has been sentenced by a general court martial to be dismissed the Honourable Company's service for having so entirely given himself up to a habit of drunkenness as to render him unfit for the duties of an officer.

87. In a letter from the late Administration, dated 10th December 1772, they referred to your decision the claim of Major Eyres for superior rank; as you have not signified any determination upon it Major Eyres has renewed his application to us conceiving that his former memorial may have escaped your notice. His pretensions are stated in his address which is recorded in Consultation 11th instant and we beg leave to point it out for your consideration.

88. We have found it necessary to make a fresh alteration in the rank of some of the officers who were appointed cadets in the year 1769 by placing Lieutenants Ogilvie, Forbes, Denty, Squires and Dodds who had been King's officers at the head of the list of that season in compliance with your standing orders for giving a preference, in the appointment of officers, to such as had borne commissions in His Majesty's service. For the same reason we have placed Ensign Archibald Edmonstone above all the officers who came out cadets in the year 1771 and are not possessed of commissions in His Majesty's service of a date prior to his.

89. A memorial addressed to your Honourable Court has been presented to us by Lieutenant Wm. Denby and we forward it a number in this packet. The memorialist was appointed a cadet in 1769 and came to India in a ship that lost her passage, he claims a right to avail himself of your decision in favour of Lieutenant Duffin wherein you direct, "that he shall rank pursuant to his original appointment as a cadet next under

Captain Davis." As we had only one rule to guide our decision upon the case of Lieutenant Denby namely the general principle established by the Board of Field Officers and confirmed by you that cadets have no rank and that officers shall take rank only from the dates of their first commissions, we ordered that Lieutenant Wm. Denby should continue in the place assigned him by our general regulation of the 30 October. We refer his memorial, however, to your ultimate decision observing at the same time that the cases of Lieutenants Witherstone, Wm. Wood, Ogle, Teasdale, Vincent, Cust, McKenzie and D. Williams who came out in the same season are exactly similar to that stated by Lieutenant Denby.

90. We cannot avoid taking this occasion to remark, with all due submission to your commands, the many inconveniencies and embarrassments to which we must be subject by the slightest deviation from the general and established rules of the service in the reasons which you may be pleased to assign for particular appointments, since these reasons will always be quoted as laws by such as may claim any benefit under them and must be allowed by this Board as such, unless contradictory to other orders from you. The declaration which you have been pleased to make in the case of Captain Duffin, "that he had been injured in his rank by the promotion of cadets above him whose original appointment had been subsequent to his," can be founded only on the principle that cadets have rank. The opinion that they have no rank having been given on a mature deliberation of the subject in cases especially referred to you must of course set aside the former rule and every claim made under it, but as Lieutenant Denby has quoted your authority in support of his pretensions it becomes us to refer his memorial to your consideration.

91. We were on the point of nominating the Sub-Accomptant Mr. Wm. Larkins to the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Darrell when we received your orders of the 12th April 1775 containing the appointment of Mr. Collings to this succession immediately after Mr. Livius. This gentleman having, as we before informed you, declined the office of Sub-Accomptant, Mr. Collings of course came directly into Mr. Darrell's place and has taken charge accordingly. Mr. Larkins feeling a disappointment at being deprived of an office which from the sense we entertain of his industry and abilities, we had intended to grant him has addressed us on the subject, we beg leave to point out his letter for your observation and to repeat the recommendation we gave of his merits in our General Letter of the 16th May last. He expresses a readiness to continue to act with the same assiduity under the present arrangement that he has hitherto shewn in the Accomptant's office.

92. As we apprehend that the repeated mention which has been made to you by the late President and Council in favour of Ensign John Murray, particularly their recommendation of him to be appointed into the Company's civil service, may have been overlooked in the multiplicity of business with which your time has lately been engrossed we take the

Consultation
11th March

liberty to renew the application in his behalf, as well from our satisfaction with his conduct as Secretary to the Board of Ordnance, in compliance with his desire to which we beg leave to refer you. '

93. Although you have authorized us to admit the claim made by Ramnarain Misser to the sum of 4103 rupees which stands on balance in the Company's books of this Presidency in the name of his late father Ramnaut M'sser, in case he could prove his title as legal heir or representative of the deceased, yet as it appears, by a remark of the Auditor. in his letter of the 11th March 1772, that by the journal entry in 1743 this amount had been received in part payment of a debt due from Ramnaut Misser to the Company we have refused to pay Ramnaut Misser unless he can prove the means by which it became due to his father, and for this purpose he has thought proper to institute a suit in the Supreme Court.

94. In our last we informed you of the orders we had given to the Sub-Treasurer to demand payment of several private bonds which had fallen due. Mr. Bowey the Deputy Master Attendant is the only person who has discharged his amounting to Arcot rupees 3,640, and we must say that we think it a singular hardship upon him, though it was incumbent upon us to exact it, the salary, which by this payment he has now refunded, was not sufficient to maintain him and at any rate was granted to him unconditionally by the Board and no part was ever recovered from the estate of Mr. Dean who equally benefitted with Mr. Bowey but deceased before he had executed any bond for the repayment of it. We shall consider of proper means to exact payment of the other bonds as soon as possible.

95. On an application from the executor to the estate of Mr. Pickering Robins, deceased, we have altered the sett of bills of exchange for £616 which has been drawn in favour of the estate and made payable to Anne Reynolds Rogers and have now made them payable to the same person conjointly with Richard Bell and Samuel Totten Esqrs.

96. Complete registers of the bills and certificates granted by this ship are sent numbers in the packet. The amount of the shares in the allowed remittance of this season, which had not been taken up by the persons to whom they were allotted on the 1st March, being £17,476.3.7 we have made a subsequent distribution of this sum.

97. We have given permission to Captain Conway to resign the Company's service and to proceed to England, by the *Talbot*, for the recovery of his health.

98. Mr. Tilly Kettle has likewise obtained our license to embark on board this ship.

99. Dr. James Kerr has written an address to you in reply to the favourable mention which you were pleased to make of him in your General Letter dated 23rd December 1774 and we transmit it by this packet; the papers which he refers to are before the Board but have not yet come under our consideration.

100. Sir John Doyly, whom we lately promoted to succeed Mr.

Redfearn, in the office of Persian Translator has represented to us that although his office is become more important and laborious than formerly yet it was divested of all emoluments excepting a salary of 100 rupees per month. His predecessor had been allowed to hold the office of Post Master General as a compensation for this insufficiency, and the Governor General conceiving that since this appointment had been separated from it the salary alone was very disproportionate to the trust and fatigues of the Persian Translator, proposed an encrease of it, to 600 rupees which we accordingly agreed to.

101. We have permitted Ensign John Johnson to resign the Company's service, and a charterparty passage on the *Talbot* has been ordered for him, Lieutenant Broadbent and two private soldiers named John Smith and Thomas Smith; the three last have obtained certificates to entitle them to the pension and the passage of each has been paid for here.

102. The balance of cash in your treasuries etc. on this day is as follows, viz.,

In the General Treasury.....	28,91,102-7-9
In the <i>Khalsa</i> do.....	21,81,425-2-18
In the Mint.....	50,000-0-0
In the Cash.....	1,486-9-0

Supplement

1. We have acquainted you in the former part of this letter with the reasons which have induced us to come to the resolution of withdrawing the sepoys from your commercial factories, but having since received a letter from the Board of Trade on the subject and perceiving what they have now written to you we think it necessary to add, as a further explanation of our motives, that our present establishment of militia sepoys being insufficient, after providing for the services of the collections and the *fouzdaries* newly established, to admit of guards at the factories we thought it more adviseable to recommend to that Board to employ *burgundasses* and peons for that purpose than for us to encrease our Militia establishment, seeing that under the present police their factories and *arrungs* will be equally well, guarded by those people as by sepoys and at a much less expence to the Company. We hope, however, that the *fouzdaries* on the respectable footing they now are will effectually suppress the licentious practices of robbers and decoits which are complained of by the Board of Trade. It is true that in cases of real danger we have promised and still mean to assist the Board of Trade with escorts or guards of sepoys but we apprehend that such can seldom occur, when they do we will endeavour to supply them with sepoys by extraordinary drafts from the present establishment.

2. Having already stated amply our proceedings on the different applications which have been made to us by the Board of Trade respecting the article of saltpetre we shall only repeat, in consequence of their

present address to you, that we think the mode which they have offered to your consideration of sending *gomastahs* into the districts of the Nabob Asoph-ul-Doulah and Rajah Cheyt Sing to purchase it very objectionable. We have no right to vest *gomastahs* with any power for that purpose either in the country of the Nabob or even of Cheyt Singh who exclusive of his tribute holds the government of it independantly, yet the authority which any *gomastahs* employed by the Company would assume in their name could not fail, we think, to become the source of continual complaints against them and consequently disputes with those chiefs.

3. The plan for providing saltpetre proposed to us by Mr. Geraud, which we sent to the Board of Trade, seemed to offer all the advantages at Chupera which they could expect to find elsewhere namely, encrease of quantity and cheapness.

4. We beg leave to transmit a number in the packet copy of a letter which we have received from the Reverend Mr. Johnson, one of the chaplains of this Presidency, entreating us to erect a suitable edifice for publick worship although it is notorious that the apartment at present allotted to the celebration of divine service is very unfit for that purpose, as well from its want of size as for other reasons which Mr. Johnson has stated in his letter yet we do not think ourselves authorized to commence such an undertaking as the building of a church without your express orders particularly as you have restricted us to the expenditure of £100,000 per annum and forbid the erection of any new buildings without your permission, we, therefore, recommend his letter to your consideration.

Fort William,
the 20th March, 1776.

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful
Humble servants,
Warren Hastings
J. Clavering
Geo. Monson
Richard Barwell
P. Francis.

LETTER DATED 9 APRIL 1776

Observations on habeas corpus writ granted to Monsieur Sanson by Supreme Court.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

A copy of the writ of habeas corpus, granted to Monsieur Sanson and mentioned in our letter of the 2nd instant, having been this day laid before us by General Clavering we deem it of considerable importance to your service that you should be apprized as soon as possible of the tenor of this writ. We, therefore, take the chance of the *Talbot's* not being sailed to communicate a copy of it to you.

We have not time to enter so fully as we could wish into the several observations which the subject and circumstances attending it have suggested to us. We shall therefore confine ourselves to a few remarks which arise immediately on the face of the writ.

First, it is affirmed by one of His Majesty's Judges that the French nation have a settlement or factory at Midnapore and that Monsieur Sanson is Resident or Chief there on the part of His Most Christian Majesty.

Second, supposing such factory to exist the operation of the writ appears to us in fact to extend the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to the French and, of course, to all the foreign factories.

Third, the suing for such a writ on the part of the Chief of a French factory, which we cannot suppose to have been done without the authority and approbation of the Commandant at Chandernagore, appears to us to amount to an acknowledgement on the part of the French of such jurisdiction.

Fourth, the writ is directed to the *Daroga* of the *cutcherry* at Midnapore that is to the chief magistrate of the criminal court of the district; by this act therefore we conceive a jurisdiction is claimed and exercised by the Supreme Court over the criminal courts of the country.

We submit it to your judgement whether these conclusions are justly drawn from the terms and avowed object of the writ. The facts themselves, without any further observations from us are open to consequences which we do not doubt will engage your attention.

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your faithful
humble servants,
Warren Hastings
J. Clavering
Richd. Barwell
P. Francis.

Fort William,
the 9th April, 1776.

LETTER DATED 20 JULY 1776

Bombay Government asked to make Raghunath Rao quit Company's territories—Board's policy towards the Marathas in conformity with Court's

instructions—clear definition of controlling power of Bengal Government over other Presidencies requested—Oudh affairs—regular payment of tribute by Chait Singh arrangement for supply of funds for China investment.

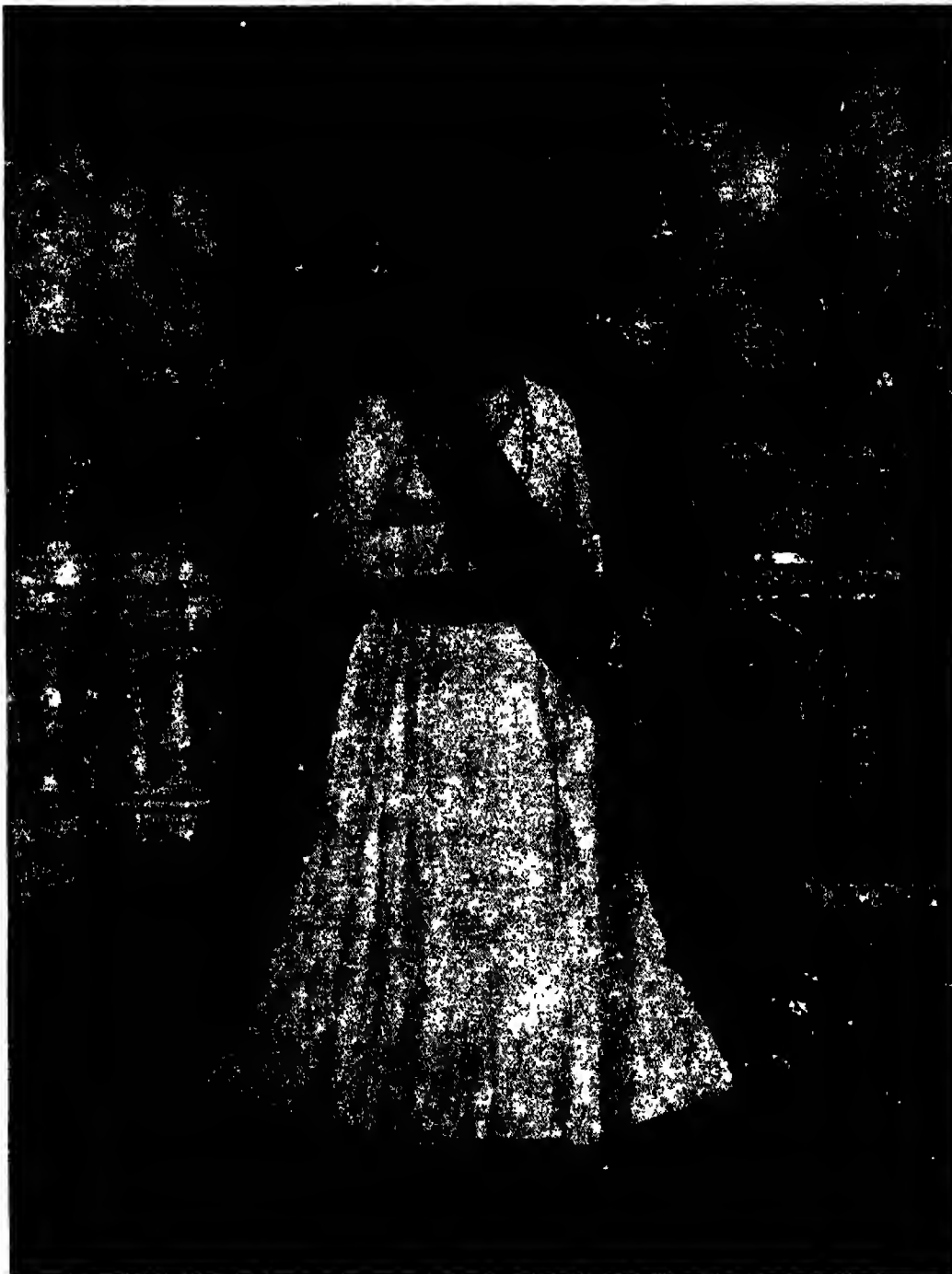
TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. As we have been informed that the *Grenville* will touch at Fort St. George to receive her final dispatches to Europe we think it proper to address you by that conveyance, briefly to lay before you a state of such matters as have occurred since our last address and appear of most importance to your affairs under our direction.

2. We had the honor to receive your Public and Secret Letters, dated the fifteenth of December 1775, by the *Greenwich* the 27 ultimo.

3. The treaty of peace¹ concluded by Lieutenant Colonel Upton with the Maratta Government at Poona, which arrived just in time to be transmitted to you by the *Talbot*, has been confirmed and ratified by both parties with the alterations, we then advised you, we had proposed to the ministers, but Ragonauth Row not agreeing to accept the stipulations obtained in his favor has thrown himself on the Government of Bombay for protection and been allowed to take refuge in Surat. You will see by our Consultation of the 18th of October, that before we were advised of Upton's arrival at Poona we had authorized to the Presidency of Bombay to afford Ragoba sanctuary for himself and his domestic servants in case of his being reduced by any unforeseen misfortune to seek a refuge in some of your garrisons. When the treaty was executed and a specific provision thereby made for him we conceived that the case under which we allowed the Presidency of Bombay to afford him a retreat could no longer exist, and as we were aware that after the ratification of the treaty his residence in any of the Company's territories could not fail to excite jealousies in the ministerial party and prevent the re-establishment of a cordial and sincere amity between that Government and ours we thought fit to discourage the Presidency of Bombay from giving him a retreat under their protection even without being attended by any military force. We found, however, that within a very short time after this, that contrary to the tenth article of the treaty, Ragoba's army had been suffered to follow him and to encamp close under the walls of Surat. This circumstance as might be supposed gave great offence to the Poona Government who alledge it as a reason for not having opened the communication with Bombay or sending a *vakeel* to that Presidency as they had promised. It appears by our advices from Bombay that Ragoba had declared himself incapable to prevail on his army to disband while he was so much in arrears to them although formal applications had been made to him and many complaints received against them for plundering the country for subsistence; these facts being added to the necessity of having the stipulations of the treaty faithfully and duly carried into execution we judged it incumbent upon us to revoke



Nana Phadnis

our assent to his reception into Surat and directed the Presidency of Bombay to require him to quit the Company's possessions.

4. All these circumstances which had occurred previous to the receipt of your letter by the *Greenwich* effectually preclude us from the possibility of following your instructions to adopt such measures as may be necessary for the preservation and defence of all the territories and possessions ceded to the Company by the treaty with Ragoba². We, however, enclose a copy of our proceedings upon that occasion we hope will prove satisfactory to you.

5. Notwithstanding the measures adopted by us for restoring peace on the western side of India may not correspond intirely with your present views for extending your territorial acquisitions on that coast beyond the limits to which you had formerly confined them, and although the terms of the treaty lately concluded by us with the Paishwa of the Maratta State are incompatible with the execution of your orders to keep possession of all territories and possessions ceded to the Company by Ragoba, we flatter ourselves nevertheless that when every circumstance of our actual situation shall be maturely considered you will not disapprove of our conduct. To judge of it with equity we request it may be compared with the general spirit and tendency of the instructions under which we acted. We had no other guide to direct us untill we received your last orders given before any information of the measures taken here could have reached you and which it is no longer possible for us to carry into execution.

6. The first article of your general instructions to this Government directs us to fix our attention to the preservation of peace throughout India and this principle we conceive, as well from its intrinsic wisdom and justice as from the precedence given it in our instruction, you meant to establish as the basis of our future policy and of all our engagements with the powers of Indostan. The letters, we have since received from you are dictated by the same pacifick spirit and appear to have been invariably directed to the same just and salutary purpose. You condemn the Rohilla War as *founded on wrong Policy as contrary to the general orders of the Company frequently repeated, and as inconsistent with those general principles which you wish should be supported.* You utterly disapprove and condemn offensive wars and you declare that the sentiments expressed by a majority of this Board, in which their determination to preserve the peace of India is strongly avowed, coincide exactly *with your own and can not be too much applauded*. Inquiring more particularly what might be the Company's wishes or intention with respect to their establishments on the Malabar Coast, we found that in your letter to the Presidency of Bombay dated the 31st March 1769, you declared "that Salset and Basseen, with their Dependencis and the Maratta proportion of the Surat Revenues," were all that you sought for on that side of India. In the same letter you instruct that Presidency "to be always attentive to convince the Country Powers that those are *and ever will be*" the utmost limits of your views on the western side of India.

7. Your letter of the 12th of April 1775 adheres rigidly to the same system. You declare "that there is no part of their conduct more reprehensible, than that of engaging, without absolute necessity, in Military Expeditions." You complain "that your Affairs are in a much worse Situation than they were before those Expeditions were undertaken," and you positively prohibit them from taking possession of Salset by force "*under any Circumstances whatever*" without your permission first "obtained for that purpose."

8. The views of the Legislature in the institution of this Government, with some extraordinary powers annexed to it, appear plainly to coincide with those of the Company with respect to political measures and to prescribe a line of conduct to the other Presidencies in their transactions with the country powers, too plain to be mistaken. They are restrained by the highest authority of the nation from commencing hostilities, from declaring or making war or from negotiating or concluding any treaty of peace without our consent and approbation first obtained, with an exception only of cases of *imminent necessity*; or of such cases where they may have received your special orders. Peace of itself is the profest object of every civilized state. That it was the object of the Legislature in giving us a controul over the other Presidencies is too clear to admit of a dispute; but the same policy, which aims directly at the preservation of peace, does in effect make the best provision for carrying on war with success whenever the injustice or ambition of any of the Indian powers may oblige us to engage in it. Your honor and interest will be equally secure as long as, in the important instances of peace and war, the whole force of the British Empire in India is permitted to act under a united direction and moves together.

9. We have stated to you, gentlemen, the principles and authorities which directed our judgment in the instances in question and on which we meant to lay the foundation of a permanent system of policy for our own and every future administration of your affairs. If it should not now be honored with your approbation we shall have acquitted ourselves at least of the duty we owe to you and to ourselves by giving you the clearest knowledge of the nature of that system. from which you may resolve to depart, and clearing ourselves from the consequences of adopting any other.

10. The measures taken by the Presidency of Bombay and by us respectively with Ragoba and the governing power at Poona are now submitted to you. final judgement.

11. It appears beyond contradiction that the President and Council of Bombay concluded an offensive and defensive alliance with Ragoba (at that time a fugitive and destitute of every support) without the consent and approbation of this Government, that they do not pretend to have received an injury or offence of any kind from the ministerial party, with whom Mr. Mostyn³ actually resided as their minister, and that they engaged in a war, the object of which was no less than the

conquest of the Maratta Empire, without resources either of men or money and even without a plan of operations. Taking these facts as *data* we did not hesitate to resolve *unanimously*, that their conduct was unseasonable, impolitick, unjust and unauthorized. With the same unanimity we protested against their treaty with Ragoba as invalid, and against the war as dangerous, impolitick and unauthorized.

12. We have now before us your orders of the 15th of December 1775 in which you approve, *under every circumstance*, of "the Keeping of all Territories and Possessions ceded to the Company by the Treaty concluded by Ragoba," and direct that we forthwith adopt "such measures as may be necessary for their preservation and defence."

13. Considering the circumstances in which we are now placed with respect to this particular object and that possession of the territories in question can no way be maintained but by a violation of the treaty we have lately ratified and an immediate declaration of war we can only lament that orders of such importance and which the actual state of affairs might render it impossible for us to obey should come to us without reserve or condition, or a discretionary power in any degree to accommodate the execution of them to any unforeseen change of circumstances. Your decision on this particular question will, we doubt not, be accompanied with clear specifick instructions to guide us in the future exercise of that controuling power over the other Presidencies with which we are vested by Parliament and which in the present instance has unfortunately led us into a deliberate and unanimous condemnation of the same measures which you have approved of.

14. You will see by the copy of our Consultations of the 8th July that Mr. Tayler, who has protracted his stay at this Presidency for a considerable time without any apparent reason, has taken upon him to protest, on *your* behalf as well as that of the Presidency from which he was deputed, against our non-compliance with your orders. He repeatedly qualifies the Government with which we have concluded and ratified a treaty of peace with the appellation of rebels; and he declares that "by your having excluded us, since the Act of Parliament took place, from any interference in restoring the King of Tanjour to his Dominions, it is evidently your Intention that we should not in the manner we thought ourselves entitled to do in the affairs of the other Presidencies."

15. Without insisting on the irregularity of Mr. Tayler's conduct, in assuming your name and in protesting in your behalf against the acts of this Government, we hope you will consider his proceeding as a strong additional argument in support of our present request that the limits and operations of an invidious power, which at present we can neither relinquish nor exercise with safety, may be clearly defined and that in whatever degree it may be thought advisable for us to controul the measure of the other presidencies their submission to our orders may be enforced by your authority.

16. We refer you to our letter by the *Talbot* for a narrative of

affairs in the government of the Nabob Asoph-ul-Dowla to that date. We had then informed you of the removal of the Gossains⁶ from the Doaub, of the reduction of a body of his matchlockmen and we finally left the Nabob at Etawa where he was soon after invested with the office of Vizier of the Empire by a voluntary and gratuitous appointment from the King. We were in hope at that time that a proper subjection and regularity would have been introduced into the Nabob's troops, and his Government reduced to a system of stability. We had the pleasure to see an instance of his resolution in the dismissal and imprisonment of Jaoo Loll (a person who had been much in favour with him) for infidelity and intrigues in the command of the sepoys employed in subduing his matchlockmen but unfortunately the dissensions which had been brooding in the Nabob's court, from the enmity conceived against the Minister by the old servants of the late Vizier supported by some of the new favourite all of whom were engaged in interests opposit to that of the Minister the Nabob alternately wavering, as his weakness occassionally biassed him, to protect the one or the other party, occassioned such scenes of intestine quarrels as threatened the overthrow of his government. These broke out a few days afterwards, Coja Bussunt, an eanuch of extraordinary talents as a soldier, who had disciplined and commanded the corps of infantry, known by the name of the Najeeb Fulton, consisting of fourteen battalians, was the chief of the party against the Minister. They had quarrel'd and proceeded to high words in the Nabob's presence but were to all appearance reconciled by him, as a token of which Coja Bussunt provided an entertainment for the Minister at which they were both intoxicated and Bussunt retiring on pretence of sickness had no sooner left the room than five or six men rushed in and assassinated Murtaza Cawn. Bussunt went immediately to relate the murder to the Nabob who taxing him with being the author of it ordered him to be beheaded on the spot. These tragical events caused an immediate alarm at the *darbar* and in the camp. Saudit Ally, the Nabob's brother, suspecting that his own person was in danger, as he had been refused admittance to the Vizier's presence, mounted his horse and fled with precipitation to Nudjiff Cawn with whom he still remains. A part of the troops formerly commanded by Bussunt, but then under English officers, could not be restrained flocking immediately to the Nabob's palace to enquire after his safety but they returned peaceably to their quarters when they found that no accident had happened him. Various conjectures were formed on the death of Merteza Cawn, some imputed it to the Nabob himself, in consequence of differences which had arisen between them, and insinuated that he had prompted Bussunt to commit the murder and caused him to be put to death immediately after to prevent its coming to light. Mr. Bristow has endeavored without success to trace this matter to its source, but by the authority of public rumour he assigned it to one of the three following causes. The first was to the abovementioned; secondly to the inveteracy of Bussunt against Murteza Cawn and thirdly to a project of Saudit Ally to displace his brother and raise himself to the

government by the means of Bussunt. We know not with any degree of certainty to which of these causes to ascribe the death of the Minister nor do we think it probable that the real occasion of that event will ever be discovered. Thus, in almost an instant, the Nabob was deprived of his Minister, his General, and his brother. He was at that time negotiating with the Marattas to settle their reciprocal claims to some of those countries which lie on the west of the Jumna. The seige of Jinsi was still carrying on by him but leaving this as well as all other business to be regulated by Mr. Bristow he suddenly took the resolution of quitting Etawa to return to Lucknow. In this distracted state of affairs Mr. Bristow was compelled to act. It was necessary that a part of the Nabob's troops should march immediately to oppose the Marattas. The pay of the whole was in arrear and no immediate funds provided for discharging of them. The enemies of the Nabob availed themselves of this situation of his affairs to infuse jealousies into his troops, to excite them to mutiny and to detach them from their fidelity to their master. The native commandants, who could not but behold the appointment of British officers over them with envy and disgust, were the principal fomenters or chief instruments in exciting the mutinies which ensued. The several battalions under the British officers, though at a considerable distance from each other, at once broke out as if by a preconcerted engagement into open disobedience and defiance of their officers and in effect into a rebellion against their Prince. Their treatment of our officers was as alarming as threats and the appearance of a very seditious spirit in the troops could make it. Some of them quitted their commands and escaped privately to the English camp whilst others by mild and prudent management found means not only to secure their own safety but to recover their authority over their troops and bring them back to a sense of their duty. By this example, by the interposition of two of our battalions and by other coercive methods, which the Nabob had immediate recourse to, the whole of these mutinous troops are either reduced to obedience or disbanded and new battalions are actually raising to replace them with the assistance of all the supernumerary black officers who were in the Company's service unemployed, and by these means their dependance on this Government, we hope, most effectually secured. The measure of disbanding the old battalions and raising new ones is undoubtedly preferable to any other. It was suggested at first and would have been carried into execution, but the Nabob had neither funds to discharge the arrears of his own troops and the expence of the new levies nor had he arms wherewith to supply the latter when they were raised.

17. Our hopes the tranquility of the Nabob's Government is now settled on a permanent footing are very much confirmed by the advices we have lately received that Elich Cawn, the late Vizier's Minister, who had withdrawn himself with many other of the late Vizier's servants was returned and had been reinstated in the office he formerly held.

18. We have now only to inform you of one event more the consequence of which we hope will tend to the same desirable object.

19. Of all the Nabob's generals there only remained one of whose fidelity he had any suspicion. This was Mahboob Ally Cawn to whom he had formerly committed the government of the Cora Province. When Mahboob was ordered to march along with two battalions under English officers against the Marattas the Nabob had applied to Colonel Stibbert to detach two of his battalions to occupy that district in Mahboob's absence. It has always been the wish of this Government never to divide the brigade, and the instructions to the commanding officer in the field were drawn up in that view. Colonel Stibbert, however, as our orders to him were not positive took on him to comply with the Nabob's repeated request and Lieutenant Colonel Parker marched into Cora with this detachment. The equivocal and suspicious conduct of Mahboob made Colonel Parker imagine he should render an essential service to the Nabob if he could disarm him, with this view he marched against him. Whether Mahboob or his troops were really disaffected we cannot yet ascertain. They saluted Colonel Parker with twenty one guns on his arrival, which with them Colonel Parker says he thought a mark of defiance, he, therefore, considered what they declared to be a compliment as an affront and demanded in the Nabob's name, as a token of their submission, that their gun should be delivered up to him. He on their refusal to do it instantly attacked them, as he says, within twenty pieces. The affair lasted nearly ten minutes. Mahboob's corps consisted of about five thousand besides about four hundred Maratta horse which being first routed the infantry fled. Colonel Parker possessed himself of the whole park of artillery. We cannot yet reconcile the Nabob's conduct in this business. He had declared Mahboob a traitor, he had dismissed him from his government and he has thanked us for the services Colonel Parker has rendered him. We have nevertheless heard, though not directly from Mr. Bristow, that Mahboob has since made his appearance at Court and been received with some degree of favor. The loss which our troops sustained in this affair was one captain, and one hundred and nineteen men wounded, and one lieutenant and twenty men killed.

20. It only remains for us to inform you that Saudit Ally who as we have before noticed had retired to Nudjiff Cawn finding his circumstances streightened and any expectations which his ambition might possibly have suggested to him disappointed, has made overtures to his brother to return. The only difficulties are the security of his person and the grant of a sufficient *jaghire* for his support. We have offered him a retreat in these provinces in consequence of a request from the Nabob and still propose to grant it him provided the Nabob shall not alter his first resolution and continue disposed to make him an allowance sufficient for his maintenance. Upon the whole we have the pleasure of informing you that the dominions of our ally, though not yet so completely settled as we could wish, are every day recovering from a state of general anarchy. And we hope will ere long be reduced to a regular government. The subsidy to the troops has been punctually discharged and we do not doubt

that the balances due to the Company will be one of the first objects provided for by the Nabob. It shall be our care not to suffer that account to remain unadjusted as soon as we think the situation of the Nabob's affairs will permit him to satisfy that demand.

21. Raja Cheyt Sing continues to remit the amount of his tribute with great regularity.

22. Our letter of the 9th of April being too late for the *Talbot* we forwarded it to Fort St. George to be dispatched by the first opportunity from that Presidency, and as they sent it by a French ship from Pondicherry we now enclose a duplicate. In this we advised you that a writ of habeas corpus had been issued by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court to bring up the body of Monsieur Sanson who was then a prisoner in the *Fousdarry Adaulet* of Midnapore. He was brought up in obedience to this writ and produced before the Court who ordered him to be remanded, but he found means to escape to Chandernagore before the day appointed for hearing and deciding on a motion which had been made by his counsel to be allowed the right of appeal.

23. We have the satisfaction to inform you that the period fixed for the discharge of the Company's bonded debt at this Presidency will expire by the end of next month; we enclose for your information a state of it on the 15th instant.

24. In compliance with the earnest solicitations of the Supracargoes at Canton who informed us that they had been disappointed in the receipt of five lacks of dollars, which had been promised them for bills of exchange on you but afterwards disposed of in another manner by the proprietors, and that there was "an absolute necessity to grant them every Aid in all Shapes to assist their treasury," we have devised the following means of furnishing them with a supply of nine lacks of rupees for the service of your China investment. Our letter of the 20th of March will have apprized you of the plan we first adopted for this end, but having found no success that way we agreed to receive money in the treasury here at the rate of two hundred and fourteen *sicca* rupees and four pice per one hundred weighty dollars and to grant certificates for the same, entitling the holders to receive bills of exchange on you from the Supracargoes at Canton at five shillings per dollar payable in twelve months after sight without interest. We limited our receipts to nine lacks of rupees, which sum having been paid in we dispatched it a few days ago to China by the *Sea-Horse* man-of-war, stipulating, however, with the proprietors that in case any accident should prevent the *Sea-Horse* from arriving in time at Canton they should only be entitled to bills by the ships of the ensuing season.

Consultation
4th March

25. The *Syren* is just arrived here from Fort Marlborough to which place Messrs. Broff and Solman had returned after disposing of the remains of the Company's property at Lamboan. We have fixed the 15th August for the dispatch of the *Greenwich* to receive a cargo at Fort St. George, and shall return the *Syren* to you as soon as she can be prepared for the

voyage.

26. We have now in balance in our treasuries at Calcutta the following sums :

In the General Treasury..	..	..38,13,369- 4-3
<i>Khalsa</i> Treasury..	..	..19,77,541-15-3
Mint..	..	..32,453-13-0
		<hr/>
		58,23,365-0-0
Deduct the amount of deposits..	..	..4,10,137-6-0
		<hr/>

Rupees 54,13,127-10-0

We are with great respect,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful
humble servants,
Warren Hastings
J. Clavering
P. Francis.

Fort William,
20th July 1776.

37

LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1776

French ship's refusal to allow its examination by the English at Budge Budge—conduct of Madras Govt. towards Nawab of Carnatic disapproved.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The *Syren* packet having been sent round to us from Fort Marlborough we propose to return her to you early in September with our proceedings, and as we shall forward a duplicate of her dispatches to Fort St. George to go by the *Greenwich* we did not mean to write to you directly by that ship which is now dispatched to receive a cargo at Madrass.

2. But an event having lately happened here which from misrepresentations made of it by Monsieur Chevalier may possibly become a subject of discussion between the two Courts we think it our duty to take the earliest opportunity of conveying a true state of it to you, in order that you may be enabled to clear our conduct from the violent and passionate charges brought against us by Monsieur Chevalier, and which he seems rather to have addressed, to the passions of individuals than to the sober judgement of a prudent and enlightened government. We therefore address you expressly to transmit copies of our Proceedings

upon the subject and to request your attentive perusal of them.

3. You will observe that by a rule long since established under the authority of your President and Council here, all ships importing into the river of Bengal, whether English or foreign, have been visited and examined on passing the forts of Budge Budge. That this regulation has been constantly practised and tacitly submitted to by all the foreign nations till this time, but on the 4th instant Captain Hercouet the commander of a French vessel, which we afterwards learnt to be the *St. Anne*, having been visited by the serjeant on duty at Budge Budge, refused to give any answers to the usual enquiries, and with insulting language ordered him (in English) to quit the ship. This irregular proceeding was immediately notified to us and we had time to consider the means of obtaining redress for the contumacious behaviour of an individual before his ship could reach the new fort. We, therefore, thought it incumbent on us to require an explanation of his conduct and to satisfy ourselves on the questions which he had refused to reply to at Budge Budge before he should be permitted to pass Fort William. We dispatched orders for this purpose to the commanding officer in garrison and authorised him in case the Captain should persist in his refusal to comply with the rule of the port, and attempt to pass those batteries also, to fire a gun with powder only as a signal for him to bring the ship to, if no obedience were paid to this warning he was next to fire a shot and afterwards to repeat it until the Captain did comply in bringing to his ship.

Consultation
5 August

4. Three French ships were in sight when these orders were received by the commandant of the garrison; they were all coming up the river with a strong wind and tide, and as two ships had complied with the requisitions at Budge Budge it was impossible to ascertain which of the three had committed the offence without sending a person to each, the commandant of the garrison, therefore, deputed officers to go on board for that purpose but the wind and tide, which were so favourable to the ships, made direct against the officers and impeded them so much as to render it impossible for them to return to the garrison before the ships would have passed out of the reach of the batteries. It was therefore judged necessary to require them all three to bring to for a short time lest the *St. Anne* should be allowed to escape. On the arrival of the first vessel abreast of the fort (the officer deputed being then aboard) a gun was fired with powder only but no attention being paid by the ship to this notice a shot was soon afterwards fired and then a second but the ship, which appeared to be the *Isle of France* passed by the fort without any regard either to the fire or the repeated instances of our officer on board, he even threatened him to return shot for shot. The *Catherine* which was the second ship attempted to pass in the same manner but was obliged to bring to after the fire of seven guns, and the *St. Anne* even after this, although she had been present at all that passed and had lain to, in order to see the manoeuvres of the other ships, now made a like attempt herself and was not brought to till three shots had been fired at her.

5. The two first ships fortunately suffered no damage that we know of but the *St. Anne* did not escape without injury. One man on board was severely wounded and is since dead and three others were slightly wounded.

6. We have thought it proper to lay before you in a concise manner the above circumstances; but for a more particular and complete state of the facts we beg leave to refer you the accompanying narrative and to copies of the vouchers and depositions from which it was compiled, also to our correspondence on the subject with Mr. Chevalier all which papers are properly attested and sent numbers in this packet.

7. We ourselves entertain no doubt of our right to require an account of any ship passing our fortifications; it is warranted by the usage of every well regulated government and never, in fact, before this occasion disputed by any of the foreign companies; indeed Mr. Chevalier himself admits it, even in his present remonstrance, to be the practice of European nations but founds his claim to an exemption from it on an absolute freedom of navigation in the Ganges which he asserts to be entirely open to all nations which have a right to possess settlements upon the banks of it.

8. The arguments by which we have defended our right, in opposition to those employed by Monsieur Chevalier, are deduced from the 11th article of the Treaty of Paris, to which Treaty he also appeals in general terms. We on our part are equally desirous of appealing to and abiding by the plain and obvious meaning of that article for the truth of Monsieur Chevalier's main proposition, *viz.*, "that all the Privileges which the French Nation might formerly have possessed in Bengal were confirmed by the Treaty of Paris and expressly that they were thenceforward to be enjoyed on the same Footing, on which they were enjoyed, by the French in the Year 1749." A simple perusal of the article in question, by which the Most Christian King engages not to erect fortifications or to keep troops in any part of the dominions of the *suba* of Bengal, shews at once the weakness of the foundation on which Monsieur Chevalier erects his claim to a perfect equality, and denial, of any superiority in the respective privileges of the French and English nations.

9. Our last answer to his several letters contains the detail of such arguments as we have thought fit to urge in reply to Monsieur Chevalier which we hope will meet with your approbation. A copy of our letter to him goes a number in this packet; we shall not, therefore, repeat the contents of it here.

10. Mr. Chevalier has thought it proper to recommend to us, for the future, to suffer all ships belonging to the French to pass our forts without insisting on visiting them until the question of our right shall be determined by our respective courts in Europe, as he says that, "If we mean to persist in stopping and visiting their ships he is determined to oppose it". We shall not be intimidated by this threat from continuing to support the right we have hitherto maintained and we think our request to Monsieur Chevalier in return is much more reasonable "that he will continue to acquiesce (as in effect he has done for many Years) in that



Muhammad Ali Khan Nawab of Arcot

Regulation until the above Decision can be obtained."

11. The security of the government for which we are responsible makes it our indispensable duty to adhere to the practice which we found established, and it is our determination to adhere to it, until we shall receive direct and positive instructions from you to depart from it. We conceive it our duty to inform you of this that your commands may be speedy and decisive if you shall think it necessary to prescribe any other mode of conduct to your Government here.

12. We are sorry to acquaint you that we have been again under the necessity of exercising the controuling powers belonging to this Government in restraining and rectifying some irregularities in the Government of Madrass but more particularly in the conduct of my Lord Pigot towards the Nabob of the Carnatic. In the month of May last, the Nabob wrote to us a very affecting letter, complaining amongst other things, that Lord Pigot had sent a detachment of the Company's troops to arrest Narroo Pundit, the *dubeer*, his servant in the town of Alianore. As that place is situated far without the district of Tanjore and within that of Trichinopoly we could not help considering the fact, if proved, as a violation of the peace of the Carnatic unless it had been committed by mistake or that it was absolutely necessary for the execution of your commands. We thereupon wrote to the Council at Madras to direct them to send us all their proceedings relative to the restoration of the Raja of Tanjore. These having been transmitted to us, together with several other letters and papers from the Nabob of Arcot, we took them into our serious consideration and unanimously agreed to the resolutions which were sent to Madrass accompanying our letter of the 7th instant. They apply besides the act of hostility committed at Alianore to several other references since received from the Nabob whereby it appeared that his honor, his dignity, and his independence had been greatly injured without any necessity or provocation whatever.

13. These resolutions have been formed as near as possible to the system which, we observe from the perusal of all your letters and orders to the Presidency of Madras, you have had in view for maintaining a good intelligence with the Nabob and more particularly for preserving to him those independant rights inherent in him as sovereign of the Carnatic, which we find so fully expressed in the 31st and 32nd paragraphs of your General Letter to the Commissioners dated 23rd March 1770, *viz.*, paragraph 31st. When we reflect on the long experience, we have had of Mahomed Ally's faithful attachment to the English Company we are surprized at the idea entertained by the Governor and Council, in their letters of the 8th March and 27th June 1769, to reduce him to a mere nominal Nabob. Paragraph 32nd. The sanction of the Treaty of Paris by which treaty publick faith became the guarrantee of the Nabob's title will be of little use to him if notorious infringements of the rights and powers usually inherent in and dependent on such a title should be by us countenanced and permitted to take place.

14. We transmit you a copy of all our proceedings on these subjects which goes a number in the packet.

15. The period fixed for the discharge of the bonds of this Presidency being elapsed we have cancelled the whole of that debt excepting Ct. Rs. 27,54,740, which now bears no interest, and the following sums that we have suffered still to run at interest, as the owners come within the description of your orders, viz.,

bearing interest at 5 per cent Ct. Rs. 98,200- 0-0
do. at 8 per cent on account Mrs. Hunt's estate 47,696-11-0

Fort William,
22nd August 1776.

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants,
Warren Hastings
J. Clavering
Geo. Monson
Richd. Barwell
P. Francis.

38

LETTER DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 1776

Survey of the Hooghly—arrangement with Mr. Lacam for building harbour in Channel Creek—decision to withdraw sepoy guards from factories revoked—supply of funds to Bombay—sub-standard Arcot rupees—money embezzled by Ram Babu, Treasurer's banyan—appeal in Stewart's case—creation of office of Inspector of Works—Chunar more strategic than Buxar—further allegations against Col. Ironside—Mint Master to refund commission on recoinage—appointment of Deputy Judge Advocate for each brigade—Subahdar Dhan Singh's complaint against Lieut. Arden.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Observing by the whole tenor of your instructions to the Commander of the *Syren* packet that it was your intention to have that vessel returned to Europe with advices, we prepared her immediately for the voyage and now dispatch her with our proceedings, from the departure of the *Talbot* closed up to the 1st instant.

2. By the *Lioness* and *Shrewsbury* which imported here the 28 ultimo and 8 instant we received your commands dated 31st January 1776 and by the *Triton* those of 26th, 29th March and 5th April. We have received an application from the Governor and Council at Fort St. George desiring to be supplied with

Consultation
27th June

four ships for the investment of this year as they had two cargoes ready in their warehouse and expected to provide two more in the curso of the season. On a review of the state of your investment at this Presidency, received from the Board of Trade, we found that the goods now on hand with those expected to be received in time for the shipping amounted to 4,062 tons, valued at rupees 97,07,100, exclusive of the charterparty tonnage of saltpetre and redwood, commonly sent by the Madrass ships; as this investment could not be laden on less than six ships we resolved to retain that number and to allot the remaining three ships to the service of the Presidency of Madrass.

Consultation
24th July

3. The President and Council at Bombay also expecting to encrease their investment of this season requested leave to keep both the ships consigned to them, but as we had formed the above arrangement on a relyance that the *Latham* would be sent round to us, in consequence of your orders for that purpose, we desired them to dispatch her to Bengal agreeable to her original destination.

4. We enclose a number in the packet two seperate receipts given by the officers of the *Talbot* for an anchor and cable supplied for the use of that ship, and bills for the same that you may recover the amount from the owners. We also transmit you an account of charges which we have paid to the Master Attendant for sending down fifty butts of water to the *Talbot* in compliance with an order given at the urgent request of Captain Snow who promised to pay the expence of providing it; this supply of water arrived four or five days before the departure of the *Talbot*, but the weather being too boisterous to admit of her receiving it on board the Captain departed without it and has left no orders for the payment of the bill.

5. The Master Attendant with the pilots and other officers under him having made a survey of the river, agreeable to annual custom, we beg leave to point out their report for your information.

6. We also take the liberty to refer you to the reports of Mr. John Ritchie, a Surveyor whom we employed to examine the channel of the river at Kedgerree, which was represented to be very shallow, and to survey a new passage for ships between the Gasper and Long Sand. It appears from these reports that the old channel of the river above Kedgerree is almost shut up by the junction of two sands, called the Western Flat and the Mizen, which form a bar across the passage about two miles broad on which there are only two fathoms at low water. The channel between the Gasper and Long Sand is much more direct and clear than the former being no where less than four fathoms deep at low water or one mile in breadth. We have ordered five buoys to be laid in this channel and if it be found a safer navigation than the present tract we shall establish it as the entrance into the river.

20th May

7. The harbour proposed to be formed by Mr. Lacam in Channel Creek for the accommodation of ships, whereof we transmitted you a plan by the *Talbot*, being a work intended for the publick good, we thought it might be useful to procure an accurate survey of that part of the Creek which is allotted for it and the opinion of an experienced person on its situation and convenience for the purpose proposed. Mr. Ritchie who was appointed on this duty has delivered in a full report of those particulars which we think worth of your perusal. We, in consequence, confirmed the grant to Mr. Lacam and approved of the following establishment of rates, for harbour charges, which he submitted to our consideration, *viz.*,

Consultation
22nd May

On 3 mast vessels.....	Arcot rupees	100
2 do.....	do.	50
1 do.....	do.	10

8. In obedience to your commands of the 15 December we have ordered that credit shall be given to the Board of Trade for the amount of the duties hitherto charged them on the goods composing your investment and for the future that *rowannahs* shall be granted duty free for all such goods on the application of their Chiefs or Residents, specifying the particular articles which they may have occasion to dispatch, but as this mode although the most perfect that occurs to us, is in some measure open to collusion we have recommended it to the Board of Trade to cause the goods received into their warehouse, to be carefully compared with the invoices and *rowannahs*. This precaution if duly attended to, we hope, will prevent any attempts to pass the property of individuals duty free under the sanction of the Company's investment.

9. We have also ordered that the opinion [*opium*] maintained by the contractor at Patna after having been duly examined by the proper officers shall be delivered over to the commercial chief, but the salt business being much too complicated to be delivered up to the Board of Trade in the same manner we find it necessary to await the arrival of accounts, which we have required of the quantity remaining unsold in each district before we can be able to carry into execution your orders respecting that article.

10. The Board of Trade desired that the provision of the opium might be placed under their direction as well as the sale of it but many inconveniences to the collections being liable to result from a compliance with their request, and your orders so far from authorizing us to give it up, expressly directing that it shall continue under our management, we have not thought proper to allow the provision to them.

11. We informed you by the *Talbot* that we had resolved to withdraw the seapoys stationed at the commercial factories and that the 1st May had been fixed for that purpose. The Board of Trade afterwards wrote to us in a very pressing manner desiring us to continue them and representing that your property would be exposed to great danger by their removal. We, therefore, found it necessary, as the safety of your property was at stake, to

revoke our former resolution and to encrease the militia establishments of seapoys in proportion to supply the guards requisite for the *fousdarry* stations.

12. A banditti of robbers having infested the neighbourhood of Rungpore the Board of Trade also desired a guard for the protection of that factory, but we did not think it necessary to allot them one, as the *Fousdar*, who has a proper number of seapoys placed under him for maintaining the peace of the country, had lately repaired to his station and fixed his residence within three miles of the factory.

13. It appearing by a letter received from the Board of Trade that the sum of current rupees 11,88,037.4.7 had been entered erroneously to the credit of balance in the books of the Cossimbuzar
13th May factory at the time the Company retook that factory from Suraja Doula, and that it stood only as an ideal balance against your Commercial Department because the property from which it arose was totally lost in 1756, we recurred to your commands respecting it and agreeably to the 160th paragraph of your General Letter, 23rd March 1770, we ordered the amount to be transferred to the head of general estimate of losses in 1756.

14. We have received applications this year from the French and Danes for their shares in the saltpetre and have allowed them to be furnished with the same quantity as they had last season; the Dutch will also receive their proportion but they have not yet applied for it.

15. Mr. Chevalier demanded from us at the same time a supply of 500 chests of opium on account of the French trade for this season, and asserted his claim to the right of carrying on a free trade in that article at the place where it is manufactured. We could not admit his pretensions to a free trade for the reasons we have assigned in our former letters to you respecting the rights of the Dutch, but we agreed to furnish him, by way of indulgence, with the same quantity of opium as he was allowed last year, that is one hundred chests at the reduced price which we now pay for it. As you have not acquainted us whether Mr. Chevalier's drafts for £7298-18-10½, which we sent you with our letter 10th November 1773, have been paid we have not thought proper to make any difficulties with him in furnishing the annual supply of opium and saltpetre he paying us regularly for them on delivery.

16. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that we have remitted to Bombay the full amount of our promised supply of 15 lacks of rupees for this season ending the 30th of next April, and as the merchants on account of the present reduced price of Bengal raw silk, and the importation of ships at Bombay from the Gulphs, have considerable sums of money lying there which they are desirous of drawing out of the hands of their agents we have taken this occasion to reduce the exchange on that Presidency and are now procuring bills in advance for the supply of the year 1777 as low as 95 *sicca* rupees per 100 Bombay rupees. In order to obtain a reduction so considerable we found it necessary to forbid the President and Council

of Bombay from continuing to draw bills on us either from that place or Surat, and we are glad to experience that our prohibition has been so conducive to the end we proposed; as long as we can obtain bills upon terms of such advantage to the Company we shall continue to anticipate our annual supplies to Bombay by present remittances and we have already advanced them in this manner, exclusive of the annual supply Bombay rupees 1,01,672.

17. Our letter of the 22nd ultimo informed you of the state of our bonded debt at that period, we now send a particular account of it on the 31st ultimo a number in the packet, and we have the pleasure to acquaint you that it became due on the 14th August and has been all liquidated excepting the sum of rupees 24,55,240-4-8 which the holders have not yet presented.

18. As your commands of the 15th December last have authorized us to allow a debt not exceeding 20 lacks to remain at interest in favour of widows, orphans, etc., &ca, we thought it proper to grant bonds at 5 per cent for two sums of money amounting to rupees 57,900 tendered to us by the executor of the late Captain Edward Roch of this town in conformity to his will whereby these sums were ordered to be paid into the Company's treasury and the interest of the first bequeathed to the maintenance of his widow and of the last to the use of a publick charity in England.

19. On a report which was made to us that the Arcot rupees lately coined in the Calcutta Mint were deficient of the standard value we called the Assay Master before us and questioned him with respect to the manner in which he assayed the silver before it was coined. 12th August The process communicated by him will appear in the Consultation referred to, but as we think it necessary to ascertain, with the greatest precision, the difference between these rupees and the rupees actually coined at Arcot, before we come to any determination on this head, we have caused 100 new and 100 old Arcot rupees to be taken promiscuously from the Treasury and sent to Fort St. George to be assayed there. In the meantime we have suspended the coinage of Arcot rupees and confined the Mint Master to the striking of *sicca* rupees in the Mint till further orders.

20. We informed you in the 22nd paragraph of our letter per *Talbot* that a receipt had been given at the Treasury for current rupees 77,810 on account of commission on the revenues due to Mr. 3rd June Cartier but that this sum instead of having been paid to Mr. Cartier appeared to have been embezzled by Ram Baboo, the late Sub-Treasurer's *banian*. By the explanation of this matter received from Mr. Bright you will find that he asserts it to have been customary to sett apart the amount of every commission account after payment had been ordered and commonly to leave the money in charge of the Sub-Treasurer's *banian* to be issued to the several claimants and that this mode had been followed in the present instance, we caused the most diligent enquiry to be

made for Ram Gopaul Day the man whose name appears to the receipt but have not been able to find any such person and we understand that Ram Baboo after his dtsmission from Mr. Bright's service went up to Assam where he still continues. We have, therefore, required Mr. Bright to produce either of those persons so that they may be brought to account for the deficiency otherwise we must consider him as responsible for the amount.

21. Captain Carr having presented a bill for necessaries furnished to the recruits in their passage to India by his ship we have, as usual, referred him to make his claim to you for the amount on his return to Europe not being authorized to discharge it here.

22. A copy of the appeal in the suit *Stewart versus Auriol* against the decree of the Supreme Court of Judicature here has been transmitted to us by the Company's attorney and is recorded on our Consultation 28th August. We beg leave to recommended it to your inspection and request that you will be pleased to give the necessary orders for instituting the said appeal. You will observe that we have cautiously avoided making any comment upon it on our part not doubting that the Judges will be equally reserved in transmitting to England any opinions respecting the merits of it.

23. We formerly advised you of our having had certain plans under our consideration for the establishment of checks on the execution of the publick works and for the expenditure and application of the money, stores and materials upon them. This subject has been lately resumed by us and being more and more convinced of the necessity of subjecting this important department to some effectual controul it has been resolved to establish an office for that purpose and Major William Tolley, an officer whom we deemed well qualified for such a trust, has been appointed to the charge of it under the title of Inspector of the Works, it having been previously determined that the same should be committed to a single person for the purpose of giving it a due effect.

24. The different regulations by which this establishment is to be conducted and the duties assigned it have been chiefly collected from the plans already pointed out to your notice and from the opinions delivered upon them by the members of the Board of Ordnance to whom, we informed you, they had been referred. The instructions as they have been finally determined on stand recorded on our Proceedings noted in the margin, and we beg leave to point them out to your notice and hope for your approbation of them. The salary which we have allowed to this officer and the other appointments under him appeared to us necessary and are submitted to your consideration.

25. We think it proper to notice to you that this establishment is to continue for one year only from its commencement, at the end of which it will cease of course unless it shall be continued by an express resolution

Board of
Inspection

Per Northumb-
berland
4th July

11th July
25th -do.

grounded on the experience which we shall then have had of its effect and advantages.

26. The Chief Engineer, upon this establishment being communicated to him, has laid before us a plan for carrying on the publick works by contract for a certain sum for each separate work or building, etc., and for the reduction of the present established and official charges as well as of the expence of repair but we have for the present declined taking this plan into consideration, it is entered on our Proceedings of the 1st August.

27. In continuation of what we wrote you in the 45th and 46th paragraphs of our letter by the *Talbot* respecting the irregular charges

introduced into the accounts of Mr. Darrell the late
4th April Storekeeper of the Works we beg leave to acquaint you

that we were shortly after informed by his successor Mr. Wadsworth, that he was unable to obtain and lay before us a particular account of the overcharge in the accompts for January Mr. Darell's *banyan* having alledged that his master had carried away with him on his departure for England every Bengal accompt belonging to the Storekeeper's office. But Mr. Wadsworth having been required to authenticate the fact stated by him, viz., that in the month of January a charge was made for pilling 25,000 maunds of *chunam* whereas only 3,000 were really piled and if possible to procure such evidence, in support of the fact, as might be sufficient to found a law suit against Mr. Darell for the overcharge, he

transmitted us the deposition of the *sircar* stationed at the
30th May *chunam golahs* to this effect, informing us further that the same people who had before contracted for the charge of *cooley* hire at the rate of 5 rupees 8 annas had now offered to perform the same work for 3 rupees.

28. A prosecution has been in consequence commenced against Mr. Darell on the two following charges. First for the overcharge in the work said to be done in the month of January and secondly, for the charge in the price of *cooley* hire from the 1st May 1774 to the first of January 1776, the former being the period from which Mr. Darell was authorized to enter into a contract for the execution of this service.

29. We have the pleasure to inform you that the charges for *cooley* hire on *chunam* have been considerably reduced by the present Storekeeper,

he having fixed an allowance of 2 rupees 14 annas for the
30th May performance of the same work which was before allowed and charged at 5 rupees 8 annas. He has also reduced the charge for this article in the other branches of his department in the same proportion.

30. The abuses which are thus said to have been committed since Mr. Darell's departure in the office of Storekeeper of the Works, and which we now have no opportunity of calling him personally to account for, has rendered it expedient to establish a regulation that for the future none of the Company's servants holding the undermentioned offices shall be permitted to resign the Company's service unless he shall have resigned such office two months at the least before he shall have signified his

intention to us of quitting the service, *viz.*,
 Military Paymaster General and his deputies
 Military Storekeeper •
 Storekeeper of the Works
 Paymaster of the Works
 Marine Paymaster
 Naval Storekeeper
Buxey
 Mint Master
 Postmaster General
 The Treasurers
 The Custom Masters.

31. We hope that this regulation will contribute to prevent such abuses for the future or at least bring them to light before the parties shall have quitted the Company's service and are thereby no longer within the reach of the censure of this Government. It has been also transmitted to the Board of Trade with a recommendation to establish it as a rule with all such of the Company's servants in their department as are entrusted with charge of money or any other property of the Company.

32. On resuming our enquiry into the right of the contractor, Mr. Adams, to refuse delivering stores in conformity to the musters which had been fixed on for that purpose it was agreed to take the opinion of the Company's counsel whether he was bound by his contract to conform to them in the manner in which they had been chosen and exhibited to him, and the whole of the papers relative to the transaction related in the 42nd, 43rd and 44th paragraphs of our address by the *Talbot* were also delivered to him for his general opinion upon them, but we have not yet been furnished with it in consequence of this reference.

33. The Chief Engineer and Storekeeper again reported to us the bad quality of the stores supplied by the contractor for the use of the works but on their being positively directed not to receive any that were bad or unserviceable, no further complaints have been since received of them.

34. A claim has been lately preferred by the contractor on account of the balance of several indents which he alledges have been left upon his hands and the value of which he states at 71,976 rupees. but it has not been yet decided on this claim with explanations of the Storekeeper of the Works and Chief Engineer and the examination of the contractor himself before our Board, on the subject are recorded in our proceedings, should you think fit to refer to them.

35. Among the proposals delivered to us for the contract for the performance of the carpenters, smiths, and brasswork, for the service of the fortifications, those of Mr. Lyon appearing to be the most advantageous, being above 20 per cent according to

the calculation which was laid before us lower than the rate of the former contract, have been accepted. Mr. Lyon's knowledge also in this branch of business was a consideration with us in giving a preference to his proposals to those of any others equally low.

23rd May

36. The disputes between the contractor's and Storekeeper of the Works and the difficulty of deciding upon them without engaging in a suit at law with the former, induced General Clavering to propose that it should be a condition in the contract with Mr. Lyon that it should be in the power of the Governor General and Council, on giving him one month's notice, to dissolve the contract without assigning any cause whatever for it. The proposition being resolved on, the condition was communicated to him for his acceptance but he declining the contract on these terms it was proposed to him that a clause should be inserted, declaring that he should remain in possession of it so long as he executed it with fidelity, but that three persons should be occasionally appointed by the Governor General and Council to inspect his works when they might judge it necessary and on their report the Board should decide and their decision be final. To this clause Mr. Lyon acquiesced and the contract has been concluded with him accordingly.

30th May and
6th June

37. Proposals were delivered in at the same time for the contract for gun carriages, but it having been referred to the Board of Ordnance to give their opinion on the expediency of entering into any new engagement for furnishing the Company with this article and their report being but very lately received no determination has yet past thereupon.

11th April
23rd May

38. The contracts for military stores for works and *B xey's* office as well as the marine contract all expired on the first of this month and in consequence of advertizement, published for that purpose, proposals have been received for the supply of the three first mentioned offices. these will be taken into consideration immediately after the dispatch of this ship and our determination upon them be submitted to you in our next advices, as well as the mode of conducting the marine for the ensuing year.

39. We informed you in our address by the *Northumberland* that a prosecution had been instituted by us in the Supreme Court of Judicature against the persons who had entered into contracts with the Company in the year 1770 for the supplies of firewood for the respective balances owing from them on their engagements. The original papers which were executed by the different parties, and which we understood were essentially necessary for carrying on the suit, having been mislaid prevents our acquainting you with the issue of it, but we now learn from the Company's attorney that he has received sufficient information without them for the prosecution of the demand.

22nd August

40. We beg leave to acquaint you that having received a report from Captain Home, the late Barrack Master at Burrampore, sepecifying sundry deficiencies which should have been made good by Mr. Alexander Burrel,

the person who entered into a contract in February 1774 with the late
 12th October 1776 Mr. Middleton, then Chief of Cossimbuzar, for the entire
 9th May 1776 completion of the Burrampore cantonments, we directed
 29th August the Chief and Council of Morshedabad to call upon
 Mr. Burrel to complete the same but that Council informed
 us in answer that they were unable to comply with our
 orders, finding Mr. Burrel was gone to Europe, and we since understand
 that he has left no agents in this country so that the demands cannot be
 enforced by us. The original contract also is a number in the packet.

41. We are obliged therefore to refer this matter to you that in case
 you think proper you may demand from Mr. Burrel the payment of the
 sum of *sicca* rupees 1109-0-9 being the charge which, according to the
 estimate delivered to us by the barrack contractor he is of opinion, the
 provision of the deficient articles will be attended with. We transmit
 a number in the packet extracts from our proceedings on this subject by
 which you will observe that the amount which was to be allowed Mr.
 Burrel for completing the cantonments was paid to him, according to the
 stipulations of the agreement, and that the deficiencies have been since
 ordered by us to be made good at the Company's expence.

42. We mentioned in the 36th paragraph of our letter by the *Talbot*
 that the sum of 28,700 rupees has been allowed for rebuilding the invalid
 barracks at Chunar. We understood that Lieutenant Call
 4th April who had transmitted us the estimate for this sum had
 included in it every expence with which it was to have been attended but
 from a subsequent explanation received from him it appeared that he had
 not made any allowance for doors, window frames or shutters and many
 other inferior articles because the present barracks were not furnished
 with them, and he also required a very considerable
 15th February monthly allowance for contingencies such as *sircars*,
 writers, *hircarraks*, etc., during the time that he should be employed in
 prosecuting this work.

43. The Chief Engineer having also given his opinion that the
 buildings could not be executed for the sum mentioned in
 23rd May Lieutenant Call's first estimate conformably to the plan
 proposed, we have been under the necessity of encreasing it to 36,000
 rupees, at which rate Lieutenant Call has undertaken the
 13th June contract exclusive of every other expence whatsoever.

44. Proposals have been delivered to us by Captain Gardiner of
 the Engineer Corps who for some time resided at Chunargur for keeping
 that fort and the buildings therein in constant repair for
 1st August the term of four years at an annual allowance of fifteen
 thousand rupees, we have ordered an account to be prepared of the annual
 amount of the expence of the fort and buildings since the Company first
 took possession of them, and when that shall be laid before us we will
 decide upon these proposals, at the same time shall be careful that the
 charge of these repairs be included in the sum which you have been

pleased to authorize to be expended for publick works conformably to your orders received by the *Greenwich*.

45. Repeated representation has been made to us by Captain Peter Grant the Commanding Officer at Buxar of the bad state and condition of the works and buildings of the fort and of the expediency of allowing some considerable repairs to be made to them, and Lieutenant Call's opinion corresponds with that of Captain Grant in respect to the sum necessary to be expended for this purpose. But Captain Gardiner having been consulted on this occasion gave it as his opinion that the sum of two hundred rupees if properly laid out would be a sufficient annual allowance for keeping all the terrasses and other buildings of that place in compleat repair and we have, therefore, limited the expence to that amount.

46. We beg leave to observe that since the possession of Chunar, by the Company, the fort of Buxar can no longer be considered as a frontier station, and from its situation as well as from its not being sufficiently capacious we are of opinion that it cannot serve either for the defence of Bengal, or even for the purpose of a magazine, for which reasons the keeping of it any longer as a fortress is totally unimportant, unnecessary, and we have, therefore, resolved that no further expence shall be incurred on account of its fortifications until an answer can be received from you to this opinion.

47. We have the honor to accompany this opinion with the copy of a plan taken of the fort of Buxar by Lieutenant Call when he was at that place and which goes a number in the packet.

48. The sepoy cantonments which we informed you we had authorized to be erected in consequence of the removal of the late ones from Chitpore, on account of the unhealthy situation of that place, have been compleated agreeably to the estimate which was laid before us by the Quarter Master General being current rupees 59,508, an additional expence amounting to 9,504 was incurred by him in cleaning and levelling the ground, making drains, filling up tanks, etc., which not being provided for in the estimate and appearing unavoidable has been since allowed.

49. We have also accepted of an offer which was made to us by the Quarter Master General for keeping these buildings in constant repair for the term of seven years at an allowance of 5,000 *sicca* rupees per annum, the first year not included, and we have also agreed to allow him the sum of 16,000 rupees for making a road to the new cantonments which will be nine miles in length and was thought necessary for the more ready communication between the Presidency and the troops at Barrackpore where the cantonments are situated.

50. Upon taking into consideration the proposal of the Chief Engineer, pointed out in a former address, for putting the forts of Budge

10th May Budge in a better state of defence we were of opinion that the ends proposed from the execution of the works recommended for that purpose would not have justified the expence which we must have authorized and, therefore, would allow of their being undertaken.

51. The establishments of lascars, artificers, labourers, etc., and of draught and carriage cattle, which were fixed by the general regulations in March 1774, for the service of the brigade in the field 18th April having been found to be insufficient for the purposes required, and a great number of extra people and cattle appearing to have been, therefore, kept up, and continued in pay exceeding those establishments, the Commander-in-Chief took the opinion of Colonel Stibbert the Commanding Officer in the field upon this subject, who in consequence transmitted him statements of the cattle and people he thought requisite for forming a new and more compleat establishment for this service. But the Commander-in-Chief not agreeing with Colonel Stibbert in the propriety of his establishment proposed to us another which met with our approbation. The advantages and disadvantages of both are particularly set forth in a statement which accompanied them when they were laid before us, to which we beg leave to refer observing only in this place that by adopting the establishment recommended by the Commander-in-Chief the annual saving is 92,304 rupees greater than if that formed by Colonel Stibbert had taken place, and if the saving upon Colonel Stibbert's establishment be added to this sum the whole saving upon the present actual yearly expence will amount to 1,08,822 rupees. but notwithstanding this reduction the amount will still exceed the establishment fixed in 1774.

52. We have received from Colonel Stibbert a letter explaining the reason of the calculations of his establishments having been made higher than those judged by us requisite for the service and containing some remarks on those which have been fixed, but this has not yet come under our consideration.

53. An augmentation of four companies of lascars has been lately made to the establishment of the garrisons of Fort William and Budge 29th August Budge the present having been found insufficient for the services assigned them; and as we understood from the commandant of artillery that he could neither procure good men nor keep them at their present low rate of wages, their pay being but 5 rupees per month, without any *batta*, we have been induced to allow them the same pay and *batta*, as is received by the lascars with the artillery of the brigades when in cantonments. The expence of this augmentation and pay amounts to 2,902 rupees per month and was proposed to us by the Commander-in-Chief.

54. In addition to the accusations, of which you have been advised before, had been laid by Major Hessman to the charge of Colonel Ironside per Hillsborough whilst he commanded the Third Brigade at Dinapore, there was another the truth of which not being admitted by

Colonel Ironside the Commander-in-Chief deferred laying before us, until he could investigate and ascertain the fact. The accusation is that Colonel Ironside had charged the Company 1700 *sonant* rupees for tents for his own use which were actually the property of the Company.

55. The state of the argument and letters on the subject of this complaint, which are entered on our proceedings of the 30th May, will fully elucidate the nature of Major Hessman's charge and Colonel Ironside's defence and we, therefore, beg leave to refer you to them, observing only that as Colonel Ironside acknowledged that the tents in question were delivered to him by Colonel Grant and that although they did not stand on the returns for four months preceding his departure nevertheless they were actually the Company's property and that he would refund the price which he received for them we, therefore, required of him to pay back the sum accordingly.

56. From the report lately laid before us by the Commissary General, accompanying his audit of the accompts of the Second Brigade from the month of December 1774 to October 1775 a very extraordinary practice appears to have been carried on by the Paymaster of that brigade with a view, as must be supposed, to retain great balances of the publick money in hand which has been done by charging the disbursements of the brigade always one month in advance.

57. We beg leave to quote the following paragraph of the Commissary General's letter on the above subject which will explain the disadvantages arising to the Company from this mode of stating the accompts, and also point out the obstacles of all official business in his department and consequently in that of the Paymaster General from the irregularity and delays in the accompts of the Second Brigade.

"The Uniformity of this Practice from the first of the Accompts of the Second Brigade that were audited in this Office rendered it unsuspected and from its Simplicity, till I received Mr. Pipon's Accompts, unperceptible to Me, who had not any Comptrol or Inspection of his Accounts Current with the Pay Master General and as the Pay is always by the Regulations issued in Advance and the *Butta* in Arrears, the Fallacy was by no means obvious. It has however been thought necessary to drop this Practice about the convenient Period of Mr Burgh's Death, so that the Account Disbursements of the 2nd Brigade for December, is patched up of Arrears and broken Charges, not including the Pay, *Butta*, etc., to the Regiment nor Sepoy Corps excepting One Battalion, and this was necessary for the purpose of bringing the Accompts of January 1775 into their proper Train. The Disadvantages to the Company by this Mode are a wrong Statement of the Annual Expence, its Irregularity in their Books and the Loss of Interest for the Sum charged in advance, which may on an average be computed at a Month's Interest, of almost the whole monthly Charge of the Brigade, but as the particular Investigation of it would require a monthly Statement of his

Accounts Current with the Pay Master General, ever since the Practice commenced, it is impossible for me to speak with any Degree of Precision of this Point and even this could not be done with sufficient Exactness without reforming all his Accompts, Disbursements, and entering every Disbursement under the Date of the Voucher or Bill of Payment, which would discompose all the Books of the Pay Master General's Office as well as those of mine, and throw the Business so much in arrear and Confusion as to prevent any Accompts from going Home this Year. It is almost impossible for a Person who has had the Responsibility of a Department, to speak with Temper concerning the Obstruction of all Official Business, from the Irregularities and Delays in the Accounts of the Second Brigade. Had they been properly kept and regularly forwarded, the Annual Books of my Office to May 1776 would have longer now been closed, and all Military Accompts in immediate Audit, as all the Contingent Charges and Accompts of the Factories and different stations now are, whereas the General Books of my office for the last year are not, and could not possibly be as yet begun, for want of these Disbursements as the Accompts could not be partially entered and carried forward with any Degree of Regularity whatever."

58. The Commissary General upon examination of the accompts of the other Paymasters, also informed us that the same mode of entry had been universally observed in them as in the accompts of the Second Brigade excepting in the pay of the Europeans, so that all the seapoy battalions which by the regulations receive pay and *batta* in arrear as well as lascars, artificers, contractors and all other charges whatever are entered under the date of the month for which they are drawn, instead of being entered under that of the month in which they are actually paid, by which means the balance is falsely stated with the Paymaster General.

59. The Paymaster General having been directed to trace the origin of this practice to the time when the innovation took place has transmitted us a letter, since closing our Proceedings, informing us that upon examination of his accompts he finds that the practice of charging the pay of the sepoys and *batta* of the Europeans took place in the First Brigade in the month of January 1770, during the time Mr. Colville held the office of Paymaster and in the other two so far back as October 1765 Mr. Craigie being at that time Paymaster of the Second and Mr. Wilmot of the Third Brigade. Our further proceedings on this subject shall be hereafter pointed out to you.

60. By a letter addressed to us by Lieutenant Colonel Dow reporting the state of the business of the Commissary General's office at time he quitted it to proceed to Chunargur, to which the command he has been appointed, we find that all the military accompts of the factories and different stations as well as the general and particular contingencies of the army have been audited up to the end of last month and that excepting part of the brigade fixed disbursements

of the last and present year there are no accompts which have been presented remaining unaudited. The accompts of the Second Brigade cannot be finally settled or posted up in the ledger (which is the only thing required to compleat the books of the period between the period April 1774 and May 1775, all the entries being made in the general disbursements) until the necessary explanations concerning many of the charges which we objected to, when they were laid before us, with the Commissary General's report upon them can be received.

61. To prevent all future delays in the audit and entry of the military accounts we have lately declared to the paymasters that whosoever shall be guilty of a breach of our orders in neglecting to
18th July dispatch later than the 15th of the month the accompts of his disbursements for the preceding month shall on conviction be dismissed from his office.

62. We cannot in this place omit to express to you the just sense which we have of the services of Lieutenant Colonel Dow during the period that he has filled the office of Commissary General and we, therefore, hope that you will permit us to point him out to your particular notice and encouragement.

63. The Mint Master having drawn a commission of half per cent on the recoinage of all the Fyzabad treasure he was called upon to explain
4th January upon what authority he claimed this allowance, as it appeared to us that the half per cent allowed to him made part of the Company's duty of four per cent on the recoinage of all bullion brought by private persons to the mint, consequently could not be admitted on the recoinage of their own treasure.

64. The grounds on which the Mint Master charged this allowance are accordingly explained in two letters from him, entered on
8th August our proceedings of the 9th May and 1st August, but the claim not appearing to be established we required him to give credit to the Company for all sums charged by him on this account from the 1st November 1774 to the 30th April 1776, which he has accordingly done in his accompts for July, and in lieu thereof we have been induced to permit him to draw an allowance of five thousand rupees per annum for the time.

65. We have also established a commission to be allowed from the first of May 1776 on all silver coined on account of the Company in
23rd May their mint at Calcutta, not exceeding the annual amount of ten lacks of rupees, of one half per cent which is to be divided between the Mint Master and the Assay Master in the proportion of three fifths to the former and of two fifths to the latter, and the same proportions are also to be taken between them on all private coinage on which the allowance of half per cent will continue to be drawn for their use, which commission and distribution of it will we hope meet with your consent and approbation.

66. We have the honor to transmit in the book packet the diary of

the Comptroller of the Offices containing his examination of the accounts under his controul up to the present time. •

General Department resumed

67. At the recommendation of the Judge Advocate General we have agreed to an establishment which he proposed to us of fixing a Deputy Judge Advocate to each brigade with the allowance of captain's pay and *batta* in which is included the provision of stationary and of every other contingency annexed to that duty. This plan is adopted in lieu of the late mode of employing occasional deputies whose charges being neither fixed nor easily checked by the Judge Advocate General were found to amount to much more in the course of the year than the new establishment by a statement laid before us of the saving which will proceed from this regulation, it amounts in one year to 6,590 rupees and the service is likely to be better performed by persons fixed in that employ than by those who only receive occasional appointments and cannot, therefore, have any experience in the duties incumbent on them.

68. The regulation you have recommended to us and which we had previously established that all the officers at the Presidency should lay before us monthly accounts of their disbursements and estimates of their charges, in order to enable us to judge of the sums necessary to be advanced them, has been regularly attended to by these officers, but it appearing equally necessary to place a restriction on the drafts of the several paymasters of brigades and detachments, we have extended the above rule to them also in their applications for money to the provincial councils, and we have directed that copies of all their estimates and accounts shall be regularly transmitted to the Paymaster General to be submitted by him to our inspection. This check will prevent the paymasters from retaining at any time a larger balance of cash in their hands than may suffice to answer their monthly disbursements, but with respect to the Paymaster of the brigade out of the provinces, as the punctual receipt of the subsidy from the Nabob is very precarious, we thought it necessary to deviate in some measure from the above limitation and to allow him constantly to retain a balance in his hands of one lack of rupees exclusive of the monthly pay of the troops in order to answer any exigencies that may arise from a deficiency in the Nabob's payments.

69. In admitting Colonels Stibbert and Morgan to share in the commission on the revenues it became necessary, according to the orders you had laid down, to allow the two youngest lieutenant colonels to share only as majors and to exclude the two youngest majors entirely but in this arrangement a difficulty occurred to us which we must beg leave to refer to your determination. Lieutenant Colonels Wilding and Goddard on account of the restitutions of rank which you had formerly laid them under were the two last officers admitted on the establishment of lieutenant colonels, but they are nevertheless senior in rank to any other lieutenant colonels in your service we could not, therefore, take upon us to decide

whether, by being once admitted, they had a right to share in their proper rank as eldest lieutenant colonels, or if on this occasion their former restrictions should be considered to operate to their exclusion instead of the two youngest in rank. This question also affects the majors in like manner who are to be totally excluded and that no mistakes might arise we have ordered the payment of all the shares of those concerned in the decision of it to be suspended until the receipt of your orders respecting it.

Vide distribution
in Consultation
2nd May

70. Some doubts being entertained whether the new cantonments at Barrackpore and the forts at Budge Budge should be considered as detachments from the garrison of Fort William and consequently immediately under the command you have been pleased to reserve to the Governor General or only subject to the orders of the Commander-in-Chief we took this matter into our deliberation and were of opinion, that the troops at Barrackpore, being stationed there in order to relieve the garrison of Fort William were under the command of the Governor General if they belonged to the brigade doing duty at the Presidency, but the forces at Budge Budge being then on actual service we thought that, conformable to your instructions, they were only subject to the Commander-in-Chief.

71. We shall obey your orders in appointing a Board of Field Officers to consider the memorial of Captain Patrick Duff, on his arrival here; we shall also refer to them a memorial presented to us by Captain Annesley Bailey of the artillery as the pretensions of these officers are involved in the same circumstances; the judgement of the Board of Officers will determine both their claims.

24th June

72. Your commands of the 4th March 1775 directing a priority of rank to be given to cadets of your own appointment in preference to those appointed in the same year in the country, are indefinite with respect to time, but as you expressly refer in the succeeding paragraph to the case of the cadets promoted from the 2nd October 1769 to the 16th May 1770 we are inclined to suppose that you never meant to extend this regulation to a period antecedent to the above date, and indeed if no limitation were fixed to it the rank of all the officers in the army would be thrown into utter confusion and many persons high in the service deprived of places which they have held for an uninterrupted course of years to be removed to an inferior degree of rank, for these reasons we have rejected the claims of several officers appointed in 1768 who grounded their pretensions on the general terms of your orders above quoted.

73. But as we imagined that your directions might be intended to comprehend all the appointments made since the year 1769, we ordered a list of the officers to be drawn out arranging them conformably there to. When this arrangement was laid before us the severe and unprecedented hardship, which it appeared that the officers appointed in the country would suffer from a supercession some of 55 or 56 others of more than 100 in rank if it were carried into force, whilst those appointed in Europe would be only gainers of 8 or 10 at the

17th June

utmost, induced us to suspend the execution for the present and recommend it to you to reconsider the subject as it is probable that you were not aware of the effect it might produce at the time that you thought proper to issue the order if upon a revisal of the case you should confirm your former resolution we request that you will be pleased to make the application of

24th June it and transmit to us a list of the officers appointed to the service within the period to which you may think fit to extend it, with their respective ranks ultimately fixed by yourselves, as we are firmly convinced that nothing but such an authority can put an end to the several claims which have existed these four years and are yet undecided or prevent the remonstrances, on the other hand, which would be the consequence of our forming it ourselves. We enclose you a list of the officers as they now stand in your service specifying also the manner in which they will be affected by the regulation and we beg leave to refer to it for a further into the consequences of this arrangement.

74. On reading the 22nd paragraph of your General Letter dated 15 December last it was debated whether by the spirit of those orders you could intend to remove Mr. Collings from the office of Accomptant, to which he had been appointed on the resignation of Mr. Darell, in virtue of your commands of the 12th April 1775 and to place Mr. Larkins in his room. Your orders of the 15th December 1775 respecting only the office of Sub-Accomptant and no condition being expressed in case of the event which had really taken place, we were of opinion, that it would have been extremely unjust to dispossess Mr. Collings upon such dubious grounds, of the station he already enjoyed by the authority of your appointment; we did not all concur in these sentiments; we, therefore, beg leave to recommend our minutes in Consultation 8th July to your perusal. In the meantime Mr. Larkins has accepted the office of Sub-Accomptant on the terms of succession and with the fixed rank which you have been pleased to annex to it.

75. In the month of April last Colonel Morgan wrote to us claiming a command suitable to the rank which he bears in your service, as it was incompatible with the rule we had laid down to allot him the command of one of the brigades which were all filled up, and Colonel Stibbert was entitled by seniority to succeed before him on the first vacancy. Mongheer was the only command which we could then, with propriety, have granted him but as we did not think it necessary to continue a field officer's command at that place any longer we were under the necessity of not complying with his request.

76. We have received a memorial from Mr. John Osborne, late a lieutenant in your service, complaining of the injury he has suffered from the sentence of a general court martial by which he had been dismissed from the service and soliciting us to revise the proceedings against him and to grant him redress. An interval of five years having elapsed since the date of the facts alluded to by Mr. Osborne and his case having been appealed directly to your judgement

15th and 22nd
of April

we did not conceive that we could, with propriety, afford him any relief. We, therefore, refer his petition again to your notice and request that you will signify your determination upon it.' We must at the same time acquaint you that the Governor General has given us the most favourable report of Mr. Osborne's courage and abilities as an officer, that the original accusation produced against him was only for a difference which arose in the strict execution of his duty with a superior officer and that the circumstances subsequent to his first tryal which were the cause of his dismissal, were in their worst sense no more than the effects of a hasty and intemperate resentment but in no light reflecting on his character as a gentleman. On the whole it appears to us that his punishment, which is of long duration and increased by suspense, has been fully adequate to the faults he committed and on these accounts we think it incumbent on us to recommend his case to your favourable consideration.

77. We also beg leave to point out several other matters which have at different times been referred to you by the late administration and to request that you will be pleased to transmit your orders upon them by the first opportunity as some of them relate to individuals who may have suffered materially by the delay which has already been incurred. These references are contained in the following letters, *viz.*

Letter from the Secret Department dated 1st March 1773

respecting the balance due from Government to Juggut Seat
Publick Department Letter dated 10th November 1772,

	paragraph 24, Major Hessman's promotion
do. 10th December, paragraph 10, Major Eyre's memorial	
1st March 1773, do. 33, Mr Delisle's case	
do. 97, bonds in the name of Brown and Mapletoft	

Publick Department Letter dated 31st March,

	paragraph 23, Mr. Berrie's case
	24, Mr. Barton's rank
	25, Captain Fenwick's do.
	29, Mr. Osborne's memorial
do. do. do. 30th December	15, Mr. Grueber's lost bend
do. do. do. 17th January 1774	6, Major Ahmuty's claim
do. do. do. 15th March do.	50, Mahomed Reza Cawn's house.

78. In consequence of your directions of the 15th December we have caused enquiry to be made for Thomas LeNeve who is now a private soldier in the first regiment of the First Brigade; the account which he has given of himself is recorded in Consultation 12th August.

79. The following covenanted servants have arrived by the ships of this season, *viz.*,

Mr. John Mackenzie

George Shee	} from Bombay
Charles Chapman	

John Wombwell
 George F. Grand
 I. E. Harrington
 Wm. Edmonstone
 Wm. Dent
 Jas. Wordsworth.

80. We are sorry to inform you of the decease of the following gentlemen in your civil service since the date of our advices by the *Talbot*, viz.,

Mr. James Lally
 Wm. Douglas, Senior
 John Sykes
 Robert Cholmondley
 Anthony Bennet Goodlad
 John Davies
 Robert Crawford.

81. We have also been informed of the death of Major Wear at Bombay to which place he had gone for the recovery of his health.

82. Lieutenant Ramsay who went to Bombay for the re-establishment of his health not finding any benefit from the change of air has been granted leave to proceed to Europe from that place.

83. In our letter by the *Talbot* we informed you that Ensign John Johnson was allowed a charterparty passage by that ship not being able to arrive in time to go on board he went ashore at Culpee and was some time afterwards taken up by the Zemindar of that district and sent to the Presidency. On his arrival here it appeared that he was disordered in mind and we found it necessary to confine him.

84. Lieutenant Hearsey has delivered a memorial to be presented to your Honourable Court which we transmit a number in
 30th October 1775 the packet as it is necessary to give you a fuller explanation
 2nd November do. of all the circumstances to which he alludes. We beg
 leave to refer you to our several Consultations noted in the margin for the
 general and particular grounds on which the arrangement
 15th February of the cadets of 1769 has been formed.
 1776

85. The Commander-in-Chief on the 25th April last referred to our consideration an appeal which had been presented to him by Dhur Sing a *subidar* belonging to the militia seapoys at Dacca against the conduct of Lieutenant Arden in the command of that body. It appearing on a due investigation of this matter that Lieutenant Arden had been blameable in many parts of his conduct we thought it necessary to recall him from his command. He has since obtained permission to resign the service and to take his passage to Europe by the *Syren*.

86. At the request of Captain Carr who found a difficulty in getting his ship out of the river on account of the sickness of his men we permitted seven discharged soldiers to be sent on board his ship as charterparty passengers for Europe; a list of their names makes a number in the packte

and their passage has been paid for here by the Military Paymaster General.

87. We have permitted Mrs. Davies, the widow of a gentleman of that name late in your service, to take her passage to Europe by the *Syren* and the infant daughter of Lieutenant John Anderson deceased.

88. Mr. Guinand having presented an address to us setting forth several circumstances which unfortunately prevented appointment of his son on the list of writers for this season we transmit a copy of his letter in the packet and beg leave to recall to your memory the favourable disposition which he represents was shewn to his request.

89. The amount of cash in the Calcutta treasury the 31 August was

Rs. 42,38,618- 6-19

The provincial treasuries —do. do.

28,93,639-15- 2

Rs. 71,32,258- 6- 1

Deduct for bonds to be

discharged Rs. 26,33,240-4-8

do. for deposits Rs. 3,21,870-6-6

Rs. 29,54,110-11- 2

The remains in cash free of all demands

Rs. 41,78,147-10-19

Having stated the actual amount of monies clear of all incumbrances we have to observe that we possess the following articles equivalent to money.

Salt maunds 26 lacks 26,00,000

Opium—Patna and Bengal, 4000 chu as chests 4 16,00,000

Money arising from bills of exchange to be

drawn for 1,80,000 £. Stg. Rs. 17,28,000

The captains indulgencies of 8 ships at 5000£

is £. Stg. 40,000 3,84,000

Woollens, copper, etc. in the warehouse

annual sales, take the last sales 7,50,000

Rs. 70,62,000

Thus the actual resources of this Government in hand

freed of all debts and demands is truly not

a less sum than

Rs. 1,12,40,147-10-19

Hitherto the excess in the disbursements at Muxadavad has been supplied by money drawn from the country of Owde. We have still due to the Government a balance of not less than 22 lacks account the Treaty of Benares, for part of this, we daily expect remittances and have enjoined our Resident at the Vizier's Court whenever a sum of four lacks has accumulated to make a dispatch of treasure to Calcutta. The Council of Muxadavad have written to us for a supply of 15 lacks, this we do not deduct from your actual resources in hand because we have not placed under those resources the sums due from the Vizier which will more than supply the amount.

Fort William,
12th September 1776.

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful
humble servants,
Warren Hastings
J. Clavering
Richd. Barwell
P. Francis.

39

LETTER DATED 26 SEPTEMBER 1776

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.
Honourable Sirs,

It is with great concern, we have to inform you of the death of the Honourable Colonel George Monson, which happened between the hours of 9 and 10 last night at Houghly to which place he went a few days ago for change of air after an illness of about 2 months.

Fort William,
26th September 1776.

We are,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants,
Warren Hastings
J. Clavering
Richd. Barwell
P. Francis.

40

LETTER DATED 25 NOVEMBER 1776

Repeal of import duties on goods brought on Company's ships—failure of attempt to revive trade with Jiddah; its diversion to Suez—survey of country as far as Delhi—Council Secretary compensated for loss of two months' salary—Halhed appointed Commissary General—creation of office for compiling military orders and regulations—matters relating to ranking of officers.

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We last addressed you in a short letter which was sent down after the *Syren* to advise you of the death of Colonel Monson, a duplicate of this letter and of our Public packet by that conveyance under date the 12th September 1776 are now enclosed by the *Nassau*.

2. The remaining ships will be dispatched in the following order and as nearly as possible on the dates which we have fixed for their departure, viz.,

<i>Shrewsbury</i>	}	to England direct 30th November
<i>Triton</i>		
<i>Lioness</i>	)	to Fort St. George 15 December
<i>Prince of Wales</i>	)	to Fort St. George 15 January 1777
<i>London</i>)	
<i>Duke of</i>	)	to England 31 January
<i>Cumberland</i>)	

Latham if she arrives in due time to England 2nd March.

3. The *Britannia* is safely arrived at Bombay and we are informed by that Presidency that they intend to rebuild her and send her loaded with cotton to Bengal in the next season that she may be dispatched to Europe with a cargo from this port.

4. They have lately sent the *Eagle*, a vessel belonging to their marine to Calcutta in hopes of being furnished with a further supply of money by her, but as we have been so successful in obtaining bills on Bombay at an advantageous exchange by which we have anticipated the supply of 1777 in remittances, to the amount of *sicca* ruppes 3,61,586, we do not intend to comply with their requisition for specie by the *Eagle*.

5. The very low state of the markets this season for Europe goods has obliged the commanders of your ships to deliver in a joint petition praying to be exempted from the charge of import duties upon them. Considering this subject in a more general view we could not but see the expediency of granting every reasonable encouragement to the exportation of British manufactures and the importation of private trade on the Company's Europe ships. The competition of the French in the same articles, we believe, has been the chief cause of its decline as the commodities imported by them although not permitted to be landed at Calcutta are transported from Chandernagore to supply the army and all the out factories free of the Calcutta duties which were levied upon the articles imported by the Company's ships. This was a great advantage in favor of the French private merchants and a prejudice to the commanders and officers of your ships as well as the consumation of British manufactures; we have for these reasons taken off the duty on all goods imported directly on the Company's Europe ships excepting iron, steel and lead, which articles forming the most considerable part of your own imports will still continue subject to the established duty of 4 per cent.

6. In our Consultation noted in the margin you will find letters from

Captain Scott Commander of the *Alexander* a country vessel, lately returned from a voyage to Judda in the Red Sea wherein he states the oppressions of that Government on the merchants in general and the particular grievances which he laboured under with respect to the trade committed to his charge. This conduct in the Government of Judda on former occasions having almost put a stop to the commerce with that port the merchants in Calcutta desirous of reviving it thought proper to authorise Captain Scott to endeavour to settle it on a new, secure and certain footing. With this power from them and urged by the difficulty of recovering the money due for his goods he took upon him to assume public character to use menacing language to the Bashaw and formally to insist in the name of this Government on the full discharge of his dues.

7. A perusal of the account of Captain Scott's proceedings will be sufficient to evince the discouragement given to the trade with Judda by the variety of clogs and impositions laid on the goods imported at that place. This was the chief cause of a project which two years ago you were advised of being then in agitation to remove that trade to Suez. The scheme failed by unavoidable accidents which happened to the vessel fitted out for carrying it into execution before she had sailed out of the Bay, but the attempt is now again renewed and some ships have lately been dispatched by the merchants to Suez. The nature and consequences of a trade with Suez have been fully discussed at the Board and we beg leave to refer you to the proceedings for our different minutes on the subject.

8. We received a letter lately from your Presidency of Fort Marlborough signed only by Messrs. Robt. Hay and John Hay desiring that we would advance any sums of money which might be required from us by Captain Wemyss to be invested in stores for the use of their settlement by him, and further requesting that we would honor his drafts upon us, "as the Company were considerably indebted to Messrs. Hay and Co." Having received no intimation of the resignation of Governor Wyatt or of any change in the government of that Presidency we did not think that a letter of such a nature, signed only by two members of the Board, could be deemed sufficient authority for altering the usual mode of supplying the settlement of Fort Marlborough and for complying with the unlimited demands of Captain Wemyss. We have, therefore, refused to advance money upon it.

9. We have again been under the necessity of applying for a further supply of coarse red cloth to the President and Council of Fort St. George as none of this article has been sent out for these two years past. The agent for cloathing the army has, therefore, requested that we would indent to you for one hundred and fifty bales or nine hundred pieces of ordinary red or lacca cloth, seventeen bales of middling scarlet broad cloth for the purpose of cloathing the troops, also for three thousand plain hatts with cockades for the private soldiers, five hundred plain hatts for sarjeants and four thousand pairs of amunition shoes. We request that you will be

pleased to order this supply to be annually included in your exports to Bengal.

10. We find by a letter, lately written to us, from the Board of Trade that they estimate the cost of the different articles contained in your list of investment for 1777/8 at the sum of one crore sixty-five lacks sixty-eight thousand four hundred and nine rupees, and although they say they think the investment might be considerably augmented if they had resources yet they propose to limit the provision to one crore and ten lacks of rupees, which sum they have desired us to advance them exclusive of the sum of six hundred and fifty thousand rupees more for the expences and contingencies of their establishment. They have allowed ten lacks to be deducted from the above supply on account of the money which they will collect from their import sales, but inform us that they cannot form even a conjectural estimate of the fund which may be expected to arise from the sales of salt and opium so that they have made no deduction on these accounts.

11. We beg leave to assure you that we mean to advance to the Board of Trade as large a portion of this supply as the state of our resources and the exigencies of the year will admit, but we cannot determine this point before we are furnished with an estimate of the probable sum which may be expected from the sales of the opium and salt which, agreeably to your orders have been assigned to the Board of Trade.

We have, therefore, ordered our own accomptant to prepare such an estimate, on the receipt of which we shall reply fully to their application.

12. A change has lately taken place in the government of the Danish settlement of Fredericksnagore by the removal of Mr. Kurnoc the late Governor and the appointment of Mr. Old Bie to succeed him.

13. In our Consultation noted in the margin you will find a list transmitted to us by the Surveyor General of the surveys, requisite to be made to compleat the general geography of the country as far as Delhy, the whole expence of which he estimates as follows :

Countries in Bengal and Bihar	Rs. 14,000
Cheynt Sing's country	5,000
Oude, Allahabad, etc.	10,000

Rs. 29,000

we have agreed to the execution of these surveys under the immediate orders and management of the Surveyor General, confiding in him that the expence will not exceed his estimate, and to this end we have given him full authority to appoint and dismiss the persons, who are to be employed on that duty.

14. We transmit numbers in this packet copies of two books delivered to us by the Surveyor General which contain tables of the roads from Calcutta and from Moorsshedabad to all the principal towns and places in

the Company's provinces.

15. Our Secretary who by the decree of the Supreme Court of Judicature had been deprived of the salary paid to him for the two months subsequent to his appointment requested that some allowance might be granted him in compensation for his labor during that period. Having been vested with that office by a resolution of the Board and having consequently performed the duties annexed to it we thought his claim merited our consideration and have advanced him the amount of the salary, which was exacted from him to be liquidated, if the appeal which he has preferred shall be decided in his favor.

16. An estimate of the probable resources and disbursements of this Government, which has been formed jointly by our Accomptants to the General and Revenue Departments, for the present year is now sent a number in the packet for your information. A short abstract of the same was transmitted by the *Syren*.

17. One quarterly payment of Lord Clive's *jagheer* having by some mistakes been overpaid in the year 1773 to his attornies we have directed that the amount thereof, together with the interest they have received upon it, shall be liquidated from the next sums that become due.

Board of Inspection

18. We beg leave to point out to your notice a plan and proposals of Mr. Lyon, which came recommended to us by the Governor General, for erecting apartments upon his own account for the accommodation of the junior servants of the Company and which we have thought proper to accept. They are entered, with our opinions upon them, in the proceedings of this Department of the 3rd and 10th October and we hope that you will approve of the provision, which we have thus judged it necessary to make for the writers whom you appoint for the service of this settlement. The actual increase of expence attending it not being very considerable as the buildings are only to be rented by the Company and they are to be at no other expence whatsoever on account of them and as the Company's allowance for house rent will go in aid of it.

19. The claim of the contractor for supplying the works with petty stores, noticed in our last address, has been since decided. He having voluntarily delivered to us an account upon oath of articles which he affirmed had been actually provided by him to supply indents he had received from the Chief Engineer and the ballance of which indents had accumulated in his hands to the amount of above forty thousand rupees. We, therefore, agreed that the ballance of the stores, specified in his account, should be taken from him occasionally, as the service might require, on the terms of his contract in virtue of the indents by which they were provided and the clause in the contract which subjected him to a penalty for every deficiency in his compliance with the indents. The

Board of Inspection's Proceedings 10th October

Per Syren
Board of Inspection's Proceedings 26th September

Storekeeper of the Works having since applied to receive the balance into
 31st October store that he might the better account for its expenditure,
 we have consented to his taking possession of it.

20. Mr. Collings the brick contractor having compleated the
 delivery of the quantity of bricks, stipulated to his engagement to be
 furnished by him in the course of the first year, lately represented to us
 the loss he had suffered from not having been supported
 3rd October in the exclusive priviledge which we had intended to
 grant him of supplying the town with bricks and, therefore, applied to be
 released from the terms of his contract for the two ensuing years. As we
 were convinced that great quantities of bricks had been burnt not only in
 the environs but even within the heart of the town of Calcutta by other
 persons and that it was not in our power to put a stop to this licence we
 were of opinion that he had a just plea to require his being released from
 his engagements and, therefore, complied with his request after accepting of
 an offer, which he made us, of delivering the amount of
 Per Hillshorough the ballance in his hands in bricks and coal on the terms
 which he had supplied the additional quantity mentioned in our address of
 the 15th January 1776.

21. Major Tolley applied to us for a continuance to him of the
 brick contract upon the above terms but as any further
 engagement for the supply of this article would have been
 incompatible with the plan hereafter mentioned for carry-
 ing on the works we declined the acceptance of his
 proposal.
 Board of Ins-
 pection's
 Proceedings
 3rd October

22. The consideration of the proposal of the Chief Engineer for
 carrying on the public works of the fortifications by contract for a certain
 fixed sum for each separate works or building which was
 17th October pointed out to you in our last address, has been lately
 resumed by us and the Inspector of the Work having given his opinion in
 favor of the plan, it has been determined to carry it into execution.
 A corrected copy thereof and of the Chief Engineer's letter, which accom-
 panied it, is recorded on our proceedings of the 3rd October in which some
 additions have been inserted by him which renders the plan more compleat
 by including every expence whatsoever within the sum of each separate
 contract. Our opinions upon the subject are also entered
 10th October on the proceedings of the above date and of those on the
 tenth of the same month and we beg leave to point them out to your
 notice.

23. The following buildings and works which were recommended
 by the Chief Engineer to be carried into execution the ensuing season have
 been accordingly advertized for contract excepting the
 7th November revetment of the redans which, on the model proposed by
 him, appeared to be unnecessarily massy for the purpose of it and liable to
 great expence in the first construction. We therefore, intend that the facing
 shall be constructed in the slightest manner which, in the Chief Engineer's

judgement, will answer for the purposes of defence.

Barracks inside the Plassy Gate

Vansittart's ravelin and works in the adjoining battaries

Smith's ravelin and works in the adjoining battaries

Revetment of the redans towards the river

Workshops for the Commissary of Stores, and a powder magazine.

24. Descriptions of the above works with the specification of the nature and particular quality of the materials to be used in the construction of them with the manner in which the work is to be performed and the time limited for their completion have been deposited with plans, sections and elevations for publick inspection. The contracts are to be undertaken with exception only of the carpenters, smiths and brass work which we have agreed to continue to Mr. Lyon either upon the present footing or to receive proposals from him for contracting in the gross for all the carpenters, smiths and brass work of each work allotted to each separate contractor; but they are to include all other materials, workmanship and expence whatever. The Company's bricks now remaining in store are to be delivered to the contractors, they paying for the same, until the whole quantity shall be expended after which the contractors are to supply themselves; but all other articles whatsoever are to be furnished by themselves and to be the best of their kind.

25. It may be necessary to remark that upon examining the state of the present contracts for the works it appeared that the only ones which were not expired or which could not at once be annulled were those for the carpenters, smiths and brass work and the contracts for supplying *chunam* and teak timbers. The first has been accommodated with Mr. Lyon in the manner beforementioned. The greatest part of the Company's *chunam* remaining in store has been ordered to be sold and it is our intention to dispose of the rest as it shall be received from the contractors. The latter contract is included in that for carpenters work as the materials will continue to be received by Mr. Lyon from the teak contractor.

26. Proposals have been delivered to us for performing the brick work of the fortifications considerably under the present contract rates and we have also received advantageous offers from the Storekeeper of the Works for furnishing the stores of his office but as the acceptance of them would be inconsistent with the above plan for carrying on the works, they have not been taken into consideration; neither have the proposals, which we before informed you had been delivered to us in consequence of an advertisement published, for that purpose, for supplying the Storekeeper's office.

27. A Plan similar to that of the Chief Engineer's has been laid before us by the Inspector of the Works proposing one general contract for the construction of the fort and buildings appertaining to it, also to contract for the continual reparation of them for the term of five years but we have deferred coming to

Board of Inspection's
Proceedings 24th
October

31st October

Per Syren

Board of Inspection's
Proceedings 17th
October

any conclusion upon it until we shall have received the proposals, which may be offered, for contracting for the different works in detail.

28. For a report of the work performed on the deficient parts of the Fort, out works and interior buildings, from the first of January to the thirtieth of September last, and of the expences incurred on the fortifications during that period we beg leave to refer you to the Chief Engineer's letter entered on our proceedings of the 7th instant.

29. The army contract expiring on the first of January next, advertisement was some time ago published for receiving proposals for the next engagement and those of Mr. Grueber being the lowest have been accepted for the term of one year with the exception of the elephants, for the feeding and providing which, we have agreed to conclude a contract with Mr. Templer whose proposals were upon a different plan from those of any other bidder and we think will be the most advantageous for the Company. The contract with him has been entered into for three years according to the terms of his proposals and the proposals are all entered on our proceedings of the 10th October.

General Department's Consultations 1st August

Board of Inspection's Proceedings 24th October 31th October

30. The Board of Ordnance having given their opinion that the former mode of contract for furnishing gun carriages was disadvantageous for the Company, recommended to us a plan for the supply of such as might in future be required for the service which met with our approbation and they have been authorized to carry it into execution. It stands recorded in our proceedings of the 31st October to which we beg to refer.

31. Our proceedings on the subject of the foregoing contracts shall shortly be selected and transmitted to you in conformity to your standing orders.

32. Since closing our Proceedings General Clavering has delivered in two minutes, copies of which we transmit numbers in the packet. The one contains his opinion first on his manner with which it has been resolved that the works in the Fort shall be conducted and the revetment of the redans rebuilt; secondly on the resolution of granting to Mr. Lyon a contract for the iron, brass and wood work; thirdly on the contract granted to Mr. Templer. The other minute contains his opinion on the manner of making up the gun carriages and mortar beds.

Board of Ordnance

33. You will receive herewith duplicates of our last dispatches from this Department. We shall do ourselves the honor of addressing you by one of the latter ships of this season with the continuation of our proceedings and such additional regulations as we have found necessary to establish. And it is with pleasure that we can promise to send by the same opportunity an account valuation of all the serviceable ordnance and

military stores belonging to this Presidency and of the amount of expenditure in the year 1775/6.

Public Department Resumed

34. We have appointed Mr. Nathaniel Brassey Halhed to succeed Lieutenant Colonel Dow in the office of Commissary General.

35. The numberless memorials which we have received from the officers in the army complaining of being injured in their rank, the frequent occasion we have had to employ the Town Major in explaining their pretensions and the want of a methodical and complete register of all the different regulations and establishments of the army, which at present lie so scattered in our voluminous Consultations in all the departments that they cannot be found for reference without much difficulty and delay, have pointed out the necessity of forming a distinct office to compile and arrange all the military orders and regulations already in force, to transact and record affairs of that nature in future and to issue all general orders to the army. A plan for such an office has accordingly been proposed to us and we have appointed the present Town Major to be Secretary to it with a salary of 400 rupees per month and an establishment of 200 rupees for writers and other charges. We propose to meet in this Department once every month or oftener if the business shall require it.

36. We have directed in general orders that all the officers who have pretensions to superior rank, in consequence of your orders for restoring all those who were concerned in the association of 1776 to the places which they originally held in the service, shall deliver in their memorials before the first of January next to be determined by the Board.

37. On considering the 20th paragraph of your letter dated 5th April last we had some doubts whether by saying that the command of the brigades should devolve to the three senior colonels you meant that they immediately take charge of them from the junior colonels, who were in possession, or wait until vacancies should happen to which they might succeed. We, however, concluded that it must be your intention to put the three senior colonels immediately into the command of the brigades and resolved accordingly but having previously thought it necessary to grant to Colonel Stibbert the command of the troops in the field, in the same manner as that command had been held by Colonel Champion, and having at that juncture certain information that Colonel Gailliez intended to return to Europe we proposed to Colonel Stibbert the option of receiving the command of a brigade agreeable to the arrangement we had made or to continue in his present station as commanding officer in the field. Having received his answer in which he prefers the latter we shall consider it immediately after the departure of this ship and appoint Colonel Morgan, who will then be the only Colonel without a command, to the command of the 2nd Brigade vacated by the resignation of Colonel Gailliez. By this expedient we shall be able to fulfil your commands without the disagreeable

necessity of depriving Colonel Leslie of his present command.

38. We beg leave to recommend to your perusal and attention a remonstrance which has been presented to us by the officers of the Engineer

Consultation
28th October
30th October

Corps against a supercession in that corps from the late appointment of Ensign Patrick Douglas by your first orders respecting him, dated 31st January 1776, wherein you direct that he shall return to the Engineer Corps; it appears that you must have been misinformed as he never belonged to that Corps but was an officer of Infantry, however, we conclude that you must have been informed of this mistake soon afterwards as you direct in your letter of the 25th March, that notwithstanding your former orders Ensign Douglas of the *Infantry* shall be removed to the Engineers to rank next under Lieutenant Call. The date of Mr. Douglas's commission as ensign of Infantry is long before that of Mr. Call as ensign of Engineers if, therefore, he has any pretensions to be admitted into that corps he must have an equal right to rank above Mr. Call as above the other officers of the corps. Although Mr. Douglas may be a senior officer of infantry to any of those from whom we have received this remonstrance of engineers yet the rise in the latter corps having been quicker Mr. Douglas would now have been junior to many of them had he remained in India in a corps already under restrictions and where the number of officers is so small a supercession is as a peculiar hardship. Besides the nature of the qualifications requisite to make a good engineer which can only be acquired by a suitable education and long study, we think, points out this corps as particularly deserving encouragement. The officers of infantry do not want these acquired requisites, any person bearing the character of a gentleman may be admitted into that corps without them. It is incumbent on us at all events to transmit you the memorial of the Corps of Engineers, and the circumstances we have mentioned induced us to request that you will reconsider the appointment you have given to Ensign Douglas. In the meantime it is our duty to place him in it agreeable to your commands for that purpose which we have accordingly done.

39. Lieutenant Colonel Fortnom our present Chief Engineer having sent in a letter on the subject of your late orders for placing Major Watson in that appointment we transmit a copy of it a number in the packet. It may not become us to say anything, on a matter which you have thought proper to determine, in prejudice of the personal interest and credit of an officer whose services have passed under our immediate inspection, as this circumstance might have a natural tendency to engage our wishes in his favor but if his plea shall appear to you to have weight and to merit consideration, we think it incumbent on us, in that case, to state also the pretensions of Major Rennell the second officer, now on that establishment, who suffers no less, though less ostensibly, by the supercession than Colonel Fortnom and whose services and merits have been almost annually exhibited to your notice since his first admission into the service.

40. Mr. Grueber having waited the arrival of all the ships of this

season in expectation of your reply to a reference which was made to you in a letter, dated 30th December 1773, concerning a Company's bond lost whilst his property, and finding that this subject had escaped your notice, again solicited payment of the amount. We followed, in this case, the orders contained in your letter of the 7th of April 1773 on a similar reference made from Captain Toone and after having ascertained that Mr. Grueber's bond, amounting to 4000 rupees, had never been presented for payment we required an affidavit of the property and an indemnification similar to that given by Captain Toone upon the delivery of which the amount of both principal and interest were paid to Mr. Grueber.

41. Being authorized by your letter of the 7th April last to grant permission to Messrs Motte, Scott and Fowke to return to Benares we have complied with an application lately made to us by Mr. Scott for that purpose.

42. We have made a distribution of the remittance, which you have been pleased to allow to the Company's servants for this season, among the several persons who signified their desire to avail themselves of it in the proportions specified on our Consultations but we do not intend to grant any bills on this account till after the dispatch of
14th October the *Shrewsbury* and *Triton*.

43. Lieutenant Ramsay, who was mentioned in our letter as having obtained leave to resign the service and proceed from Bombay to Europe for the recovery of his health, received such benefit from
7th October the sea air and the residence of a few weeks at the Cape that he returned from that place by the ships of this season and on his arrival petitioned to be restored to his rank. We did not find any precedent to guide our determination in this case but as Lieutenant Ramsay would have been entitled to return to the service, agreeably to your regulations, from England we thought his request reasonable and accordingly agreed to restore him.

44. Captain Richards an engineer officer is reduced by a disorder, incident to the climate to which he has been much exposed in the different surveys he has been employed upon, to resign the Company's service and to return to Europe, he means to proceed through the Red Sea by the way of Suez.

45. Lieutenants Thomas Lang and Hugh Stafford have also been permitted to resign the service on account of the bad state of their health and to proceed to England by the route of Suez.

46. Mr. Arthur Hesilrige has likewise received permission to resign and proceed by the same route.

47. Lieutenant Walter Roberts, who returned with his rank by the ships of this season, was lately brought before a court martial on a charge, delivered against him by the officers of his corps, of behaving unbecoming the character of a gentleman of which he was tried and sentenced to be dismissed the Company's service and rendered incapable of being again employed in it.

48. Colonel Primrose Gailliez has resigned the Company's service and proceeds to England with his family by the *Nassau*.

49. Lieutenant Wm. Sands also takes his passage by this ship having been obliged through a bad state of health to resign the service and request permission to repair to Europe for his recovery.

50. Mr. Stevenson, late member of the Board of Trade, has resigned the service and returns to England by this ship. Mr. Sage the next senior servant will be appointed to succeed in the Board of Trade.

51. Doctor F.B. Thomas finding it necessary to return to England, has resigned the service and taken passage by this ship.

52. Mrs. Smith, the lady of Major Jno. Smith, is obliged to go to England on account of her bad state of health and has been ordered a passage on the *Nassau*.

53. Ten soldiers, whose contracted term of service is expired, have been sent on board the *Nassau* as charterparty passengers and two men who came out as recruits in that ship but have been rejected as unfit for the service by the committee of Field Officers who examined them. The passage of all these men has been paid for here, their names, etc., are particularized in the list which makes a number in the packet.

54. A list of the certificates granted to the captains and officers in your service by this ship is also sent a number in this packet.

55. Since we wrote the foregoing part of this letter we have received an answer from the Board of Trade by which we are informed that a mistake had been made in the calculation, delivered into them, of the amount of charges of merchandize on the investment for the next year, which instead of 10 lacks of rupees ought to have been only 5 lacks. This alteration will, therefore, reduce the sum applied for by them on account of the investment from one crore and ten lacks to one crore and five lacks of rupees.

56. The balance of cash in your treasuries this day is as follows viz.

In the General Treasury	Rs.	44,05,212-	8-9
In the <i>Khalsa</i>	-do.-	13,15,356-	0-6
		<hr/>	
		57,20,568-	9-3

From which deduct
money deposited.

7,61,342-13-8

Amount due of the
bonded debt

14,53,285-0-10

22,14,627-14-2

Rupees 35,05,940-11-1

We have the honor to be

Honourable Sirs,

Your faithful humble servants,

Warren Hastings

J. Clavering

Richd. Barwell

P. Francis.

Fort William,
25th November 1776.

LETTER DATED 19 DECEMBER 1776

Maj. Rennell recommended for pension—James Wiss returning to Europe after successfully introducing Italian method of winding silk in Bengal—Rev. Smith's book on determining longitude at sea sent home.

TO the Honble. the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honble. United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies. Honble. Sirs,

1. We have the honor to write to you by the *Shrewsbury* and to transmit a duplicate of our last letter dated 25 ultimo which was sent by the *Nassau*.

2. Information having been received that the President and Council at Bombay intended to return the *Latham* with a cargo immediately to Europe instead of sending her to this Presidency as you had directed, the owners of the *Ashburnham* made a tender to freight that vessel to us in lieu of the *Latham*. We consu'ted the Board of Trade on this offer, as they expect to have a full cargo remaining after the dispatch of the other ships and are, therefore, of opinion that it will be for the interest of the Company, to take up the *Ashburnham*, and as the *Hector* cannot arrive at Bombay early enough to be sent round to this Presidency, we mean to treat with the owners of the *Ashburnham*, and have called upon them, for their proposals.

3. An estimate of the amount which the Board of Trade may be able to realize from the sales of salt and opium in their possession having been prepared and laid before us, we took into consideration their requisition for funds to provide the next year's investment, and have agreed to furnish them with the following supply, including the amount of goods remaining in their hands after the departure of the last ship, vizt.

By advances in ready money	Ct. Rs.	71,06,800-0-0
Estimated amount sales of Europe imports		10,00,000-0-0
Do. produce of 16,00,000 maunds of salt	Ct. Rs.	24,00,000-0-0
Deduct duties at 30 per cent to be paid by the purchasers	5,56,800-0-0	
		18,43,200-0-0
Estimated produce of 3,000 chests of opium @ 400 per chest		12,00,000-0-0
	Ct. Rs.	1,11,50,000-0-0

4. We beg leave to transmit a number in the packet and to recommend to your favourable consideration an address received from Major Rennell your Surveyor General which we think deserving of your notice, not only as the appointment which he proposes for you to establish in his

favour seems to promise much improvement to the navigation of India in general, but because, the known and experienced abilities of Major Rennell in that branch of business, may render him serviceable in other respects to the Company.

5. The great decline of Major Rennell's health owing partly to the intemperature of the climate, to which the nature of his employments has unavoidably exposed him, and partly to the dangerous wounds which he received from *sinassies* and others in the course of his surveys, and the state of his fortune, which even after a long period, the most useful of services, is too slender to admit of his retiring to England, without some certainty of support, have induced us to go beyond the letter of his request, and as the best means that occurred to us, of fulfilling the benevolent intentions which you have been pleased to express towards him in the eighth paragraph of your commands of the fifth of April, we have agreed unsolicited to allow him to retire to Europe, upon a pension of five hundred rupees per month, being merely the amount of his pay without *batta*, subject to your confirmation or reversal, and in the mean time to be drawn from the *Khalsa* Treasury, and annually remitted to Europe by bills on the Company. This mode will be the least inconvenient of any to the Company, and we trust that you will readily confirm our resolution, as a just recompence for the services of Major Renell. Should you, however, decline to continue this pension to him for life, we hope that the sum which we may draw before your pleasure can be known will not be thought undeservedly bestowed on an officer of such distinguished merit.

6. It may appear superfluous in us, to offer our recommendation of a man, who has received testimonies of the approbation of every successive administration. under which he has served, and been honoured by such repeated marks of your favour, but we think it incumbent on us on this occasion, to place his character in the strongest point of view, that he may not be a sufferer by an act intended by us for his benefit, and we cannot offer a more effectual argument in his favour, than by calling to your remembrance that you owe to his genius and unremitting labours, a complete geographical survey of those extensive provinces, begun and finished under his direction, and a great part of it executed immediately by himself.

7. The Supreme Court of Judicature on opening the present sessions of Oyer and Terminer directed the Company's Standing Counsel to remind us of their former offer, on proper application being made by petition from us, to cause any of our publick officers to be exempted from the duties of jurymen; the former objections of the Board of making such application to the Court, were founded both on the mode prescribed for it, and a supposed illegality of the measure itself, but as we see no reason to question the latter. since the Court have proposed it, we caused a list of such officers whose absence would be of most material detriment to the currency of publick affairs to be prepared, which we have delivered to the Counsel with directions to move the Court, to make a rule for their exemption, and we hope that this method will produce the desired effect.

8. On Tuesday the 3d. December the Supreme Court according to Charter returned to us three persons, Messrs. Wright, Goring, and Johnson that we might appoint one of them to serve the office of Sheriff for the ensuing year. Mr. Wright was immediately elected, but having at that time actually engaged a passage to Europe by the *Shrewsbury* and having since obtained our leave to resign the Company's service, and embark for Europe on this ship, he will not be able to serve the office of Sheriff. We must, therefore, acquaint the Court, and they will proceed to a fresh nomination.

9. We are sorry to inform you of the death of Mr. Alexander MacRabie who by your last letter, had been appointed a Writer on this establishment.

10. Lieutenants Wm. Fowler, Arnott Squire, and Hugh McDermott, being obliged to proceed to Europe on account of the bad state of their health, have been permitted to resign the Company's service and to proceed by way of Suez.

11. Lieutenant Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe urged by the same motive and the necessity of adjusting his private affairs in England has also obtained our leave to resign his commission and proceed by that route.

12. Doctor Lavis Bluhme late a surgeon on this establishment, being from advanced years and long illness, rendered unfit for further duty in India, had been furnished with proper certificates, to entitle him to claim the pension of a warrant officer on his arrival in England, and we have permitted him to resign the Company's service, in order to return to Europe by the first opportunity.

13. Mr. Alexander Colham a free merchant who has long resided in Beugal being desirous to return to Europe has our leave to go by way of Suez, in compliance with his request, we beg leave to afford our testimony in favour of his past conduct, if he should ever have occasion to avail himself of it, in order to solicit your license to return to this country to settle his concerns.

14. As your orders of this season respecting bills of exchange, do not confine us to granting them by the latter ships, and as the long sight at which they are drawn will allow a sufficient time to provide for the discharge of them, as the amount is not considerable, we have repealed the resolution we had come to for not granting any before the end of January ; a list of those drawn on you by this ship, makes a number in the packet.

15. Mr. James Wiss having succeeded in his attempt to introduce the Italian mode of silk winding in Bengal and the term for which he had engaged his services to the Company being expired, he is desirous of returning to Europe. We have, therefore, ordered Captain Jones to accommodate him, two of the Italian winders, who came out with him, and the child of a third, who is deceased, with a passage to England, as the Company by their agreement with Mr. Wiss, are to be at the expense of

his passage, as well as that of the Italians. We have left Captain Jones to apply to you for the amount thereof on his arrival in England.

Board of Inspection

16. We recited in our last address, the different buildings and works which had been advertized for contract, in consequence of the plan we had resolved to adopt for executing the works of the fortifications the ensuing season, and the Chief Engineer having conformably to our orders, submitted to us a plan of a slighter facing for the redans towards the river, than that he at first laid before us, we approved of the amendment proposed by him and publication was accordingly made for receiving proposals for this work also.

Genl. Letter
Per Nassau

Bd. Inspn.
Progs. 5th
December

17. The following proposals which were delivered to us for the different works being the lowest and appearing to be advantageous for the Company have been accepted.

12th Decr.

Genl. Clavering's
objections

Proposer's names	Lots	Amount
Mr. Thos. Adams	1	91,500-0-0
-do-	2	40,000-0-0
-do-	3	40,000-0-0
Neyderam <i>mestry</i>	4	43,000-0-0
Costraul <i>mestry</i>	5	94,000-0-0
Neyderam <i>mestry</i>	6	33,000-0-0

Rupees 3,41,500-0-0

18. Besides the abovementioned works there will only remain towards carrying our late adopted plan into execution, the limitation of the expence for the occasional charges and repairs of the Fort, for which purpose the Chief Engineer has laid before us such an establishment as he judges necessary for these services; but before we come to any resolution upon this subject we have directed the Inspector of the Works to report to us his opinion upon the proposed establishment with his sentiments what checks will be necessary for these expenditures, that the artificers and workmen, are kept up and the stores expended.

19. We have deferred coming to any conclusion upon the proposals which we have received from Mr. Lyon, for contracting seperately in the gross, for the carpenters, smiths, and brass work of each distinct lott until we can ascertain the expence which would be incurred in these works according to the terms of the original contract with Lyon, when we shall be able to judge of the advantage or disadvantage of his present offers.

20. The Chief Engineer having recommended to us to advertize for the receipt of proposals for contracting for the completion of the

remainder of Cartier's and Verelst's counterguards of the great sluice,
 12th December north of the flag staff, and of the pier head to be projected
 betwixt the two sluices, we propose to offer these also to
 contract upon the plan of the former works, but have agreed to receive
 the opinion of the inspector thereupon, before the publication is made,
 for which purpose the draft of the proposed advertizement with the plans,
 sections and descriptions of these works, which have been prepared by
 the Chief Engineer have been referred to him.

21. It appearing from a report made to us by the Chief Engineer
 that he had reason to believe that the annual sum of six lacks of rupees
 allotted for the service of the fortifications had been expended the present
 year we have caused an entire stop to be put to the works, until the
 period of the commencement of the new contracts.

22. A difference of opinion having arisen with respect to the
 acceptance of the security offered by Mr. Greuber, whose proposals we
 informed you in our last address, had been accepted, for a part of the
 army contract, we beg leave to refer you to our opinions upon this subject,
 which are recorded on the proceedings of 12 instant.

23. The balances of cash in your treasuries this day is as follows,
viz.

In the General Treasury and Mint	...	..	47,03,430-12-3
In the <i>Khalsa</i> do.	...	...	10,61,088- 1-0
			<hr/>
			57,64,518-13-3

From which deduct the

amount of deposits	...	4,96,357-6- 11
amount due of the bonded debt		9,90,835-3- 4
		<hr/>

14,87,192-10-3

Ct. Rupees 42,77,326-3-0

We are,
 Honourable Sirs,
 Your most faithful humble servants,

Warren Hastings
 J. Clavering
 Richd. Barwell
 P. Francis.

Fort William,
 19th December 1776.

Postscript

Having received a small book from the Reverend Mr. Smith who
 was appointed to accompany Lieutenant Colonel Upton to Poona entitled

"A short and correct Method of determining the Longitude at Sea by a single Altitude of the Moon", we send it a number in the Packet together with a letter from him to Mr. Ibbetson, Secretary to the Board of Longitude and other papers on the subject which we request that you will be pleased to communicate to that Board according to his wish.

Fort William,
19th December 1776.
[Per *Shrewsbury*]

Warren Hastings
Richd. Barwell
P. Francis.

A P P E N D I C E S

APPENDICES

I

WARREN HASTINGS Esqr., Our President and Governor of Bengal.

1. We have received by the *Nottingham* your letter addressed to our Secret Committee, dated at Cossimbuzar the 1st September 1772, informing us of the measures you had adopted for carrying into execution the orders of the Secret Committee dated 28th August 1771, and of the arrangements and regulations which you deemed necessary for the public peace and welfare of the provinces. And although the public records, to which you refer us, are not come to hand we assure you that so far as we are enabled to judge of your proceedings by your own letter and by that of our Council, received by the same conveyance, they appear to us in the most favourable light; the steps you have taken judicious, and indeed the whole of your conduct seems to have fully justified the choice of the Select Committee who entrusted to your management the execution of a plan¹ of the utmost importance.

2. We have been long sensible of the utter impropriety of lodging an absolute power in the hands of Mahomed Reza Cawn but the remedy was not without its difficulties; we trust the evil is on the point of being eradicated. Inconveniences generally attend great and sudden alterations, but we dare that your agency will render them as few, as temporary and as light as possible.

3. Although you will observe that sundry changes have lately taken place in the direction of the Company's affairs at home, those changes will not in the least affect the measures in which you are engaged; on the contrary we take this early opportunity not only for testifying our entire approbation of your conduct but of assuring you our firmest support in accomplishing the work you have so successfully commenced, and doubt not but it will issue in the deliverance of Bengal from oppression, in the establishment of our credit, influence, and interest in India, and consequently in every advantage which the Company or the nation may justly expect from so important a transaction.

4. As you have distinctly marked in your letter those objects of enquiry and regulation which we should otherwise have pointed out to you we assure ourselves that you will prosecute your enquiries with steadiness, impartiality and to full effect, notwithstanding the many difficulties and temptations which we are sensible may be thrown in the way of persons engaged in enquiries of this nature, in order to weaken their zeal for the public good and to render their endeavors ineffectual for the great purposes of reformation.

5. Your attention to the settlement of the revenues as a primary object has our entire approbation, and it is with the utmost satisfaction

we observe that the farming system will be generally adopted, more especially as the researches and discoveries made in the two preceding years must have nearly ascertained the value and produce of the lands so that imposition on the part of the farmers, respecting the value of the lands and oppression of the tenants may, we hope, be easily avoided.

6. The extirpation of Mahmud Reza Khan's influence was absolutely necessary, and the apprehending of Shitabroy equally so as the latter had been too long connected with Mahmud Reza Khan to be independent of him; but if that had not been the case it would have been absurd to continue a *Naib Dewan* in the province of Bahar after abolishing that office in Bengal. And as to any hopes which Mahmud Reza Khan may entertain of profiting by changes in the Court of Directors those hopes must speedily vanish, for, however, different their sentiments may be in some particulars they heartily concur in the propriety and necessity of setting him aside and of putting the administration of the Company's affairs in the hands of persons who may be rendered responsible in England for their conduct in India.

7. Your choice of the Begum for guardian to the Nabob we entirely approve; the use you intend making of Nundcomar is very proper, and it affords us great satisfaction to find that you could at once determine to suppress all personal resentment when the public welfare seemed to clash with your private sentiments relative to Nundcomar.

8. We observe with great pleasure the testimonial given by you of Mr. Middleton; you will assure him of our intire approbation of his conduct on this occasion. And as the Committee have concurred heartily in supporting a measure which, in the course of debate, the majority had strenuously opposed we cannot be dissatisfied with their conduct unless the perusal of their debates should oblige us to alter our opinion respecting them.

9. As the shortness of our time will not permit us to be more particular we can only repeat to you our assurances of protection and support in carrying into full execution the arrangements you have so happily begun; and as we desire particularly that you will distinguish and encourage merit wherever you find it so do we most strictly conjure you not to suffer rank, station or any connexion or consideration whatever to deter you from bringing every oppression to light and every offender, native or European, to consign punishment.

10. If the abolition of the office of *Naib Dewan* and stepping forth as principals should in any degree alarm your European neighbours we rely on your prudence for removing every improper jealousy that may be entertained on this account.

11. Notwithstanding this letter is signed by us, the Court of Directors, we mean it as secret and transmit it confidentially to you only, and we leave it to your discretion to lay the contents, or any part thereof before the Council, if circumstances should in your opinion render it

necessary or if you should judge it for our interest so to do and not otherwise.

We are,
Your loving friends,

George Tatem/Rd. Hall/
Daniel Wier/John Michie/
Samuel Peach/Joseph Sparkes/
John Hawkesworth/T. B. Rous/
John Smith/Chas. Chambers Junr.

Hy. Crabb Boulton/Edwd. Wheler/
John Woodhouse/John Harrison/
Wm. James/Fredk. Pigou/ Peter
Ducane Junr./Peter Lascelles/
Heny. Fletcher/Chas. Boddam/

London,
16th April 1773.

II

TO the Honourable the Governor General and Council of Fort William in Bengal.

Gentlemen,

1. The particular remarks that occurred and the directions given in the separate letter in my department of March 1772 and March 1774 must in a great measure preclude many observations that might otherwise have been made by these dispatches and considerably shorten this address.

2. The book containing the disbursements of the Military Paymaster General appears to be formed on a very proper plan and to set forth many particulars of expence in a more explicit and satisfactory manner than has hitherto been done by references in the Paymaster's journal to the pages of his disbursements, but it may here be still observed that although many articles of expence are very clearly and minutely set forth yet many others are inserted, even in this book, in single lines such as the pay to the military referring to an abstract never yet sent. This has been before observed with respect to the military accounts and directions, given in the General Letter of April 1771 per *Colebrooke* and *Loril Holland*, for inserting the number of the different ranks with the separate pay against each.

3. It has been before remarked, particularly in the General Letter of March 1772 and more fully in my letter of April 1774, that an irregularity has been suffered to be intruded in your General Books which greatly affects the apparent amount of your military charges and makes the same appear very fallacious, and in the last books ending April 1773 the same irregularity again appears where the expences of the Military Paymaster are included to April 1772 only, while those to 1773 have no place in the accounts. As it does not appear that any sufficient reason can be urged for such an omission I am ordered to repeat the former directions, that not only the current account for the year of the Military Paymaster's but of

every other subsidiary book be duly and regularly inserted in the current books of the Presidency without which the annual statement of such accounts must be highly fallacious.

4. As subsidiary books of Patna and Chittagong were received, by the *Resolution*, but no other subsidiarys from the rest of the subordinates I am ordered to signify that every other subordinate subsidiary must be duly forwarded by the first opportunity. At the same time I must observe that the Import Warehousekeeper's and Storekeeper of the Works' books have not been received for the last year.

5. On inspecting the charges of your Presidency in the books ending April 1773 it appears that several articles of the civil disbursements have increased since the preceding books, particularly the heads of diet and allowances and durbar charges, but the Buxey's accounts not being received later than December 1772 it cannot be seen how such increase has arisen with respect to those articles that are contained in the Buxey's books. And here it may be observed that several payments made out of the cash, for the several purposes of presents and others are entered in single lines referring only to bills never sent whereas it would have been right to have entered the particulars in the journal, which might have given some insight into the nature or led to some enquiries relative to the expedience of such charges.

6. In the head of charges general which has been greatly increasing for some years and by the last books amounts to near 6½ lack, are inserted some articles very improperly which kind were pointed out in my remarks on the books preceding, such as an entry of current rupees 1,41,253, to the Storekeeper of the Works which should have been carried to the head of fortifications and another sum of current rupees 1,16,345, to the *Buxey* the nature of which cannot be known for want of the Buxey's books.

7. On inspecting the Luckipore books received by the *Resolution* the first transmitted from that factory there appers a large sum outstanding in the name of Bridjoo Deloll of current rupees 1,59,060, which appears to have arisen from the advances being made to a much larger amount than the value of the goods received from him by which means he seems to have generally a considerable balance remaining with him on which I am directed to signify that you are in general so to calculate our commercial concerns with our merchants or factors as never to suffer unnecessarily a large sum to continue a long time in their hands.

8. In the General Letter from the Court dated March 1772, orders were given for an account to be sent of the statement of the Bengal expences of the current year compared with the former but no such account has been hitherto received and in my letter of March 1774, the same directions were given which I am now to repeat.

9. The account entitled an abstract of the strength, pay and contingent charge of the troops for a month of 31 days received per *Resolution* is very full and satisfactory and I am to signify that an account drawn up

in the same manner for a complete year would be very desirable and that such an account be formed annually.

10. So many remarks occurred and directions were given in my letter of March last relative to the quick stocks that little now remains to be said on that subject with respect to the general plan that should be observed in forming these statements. In the quick stock per *Resolution* dated February 1774, the balance appears to be upwards of 29 laaks against the Company whereas in the quick stock preceding received per *Egmont* dated January 1774, the balance was upwards of 46 laaks in favour of the Company. This great difference in the two accounts appears to arise chiefly from the insertion of upwards of 50 laaks for outstanding revenues in the first quick stock whereas no article of the kind has a place in the letter, nor any sums accounted for under the head of revenues but ready money and bills receivable in the quick stock per *Hector* dated March 1773, no revenue balances were included but in the *Latham, Houghton* and *Egmont* a sum for outstanding revenues is inserted.

11. By the Revenue Books of the Bengal Province ending April 1773, there appears an aggregate balance outstanding in the revenues of that Department of upwards of 71 laaks great part of which from the nature and time of its being incurred seems to give very little prospect of a realization, but a considerable part of it being undoubtedly recoverable such part ought to have been inserted and made an article in your quick stock particular of the arrears of the revenues ending April 1773, standing in the large amount of rupees 30,15,137 being much more than the arrears of any one year's revenues before and which it must be presumed should yield expectation of a valuable return.

12. It does not appear that the quick stock of Luckypore has any place in your general statement which by referring to the books consists of sums that make together upwards of 5 laak and which undoubtedly ought to have made a part of your effects which we must here in our general state add thereto but which we could not have done without the receipt of the books and consequent your omission to enter this subordinate in your quick stock would have made a material deficiency in the amount of your quick stock calculated here.

13. It has been frequently observed and I am again led to repeat the observation that some of the subordinate balances have continued long invaried in your several accounts. Chittagong stands in the last account per *Resolution* dated February 1774, in the same sum as it stood in the Lord Mansfield's dated April 1771, whereas the stock of their factory as appears by the books ending April 1773, seems to be considerably more valuable.

14. As it is necessary to wait till a sufficient time has elapsed for such alteration as have been pointed out to you to take place in your several accounts and as your books received in December last have been here so short a time that it has not been possible for such a minute or exact investigation to have been made therein as to furnish much new

matter of direction or observation, I would only point out such few particulars as have struck me upon a hasty and cursory inspection, referring you at the same time to such former letters on this subject as may lead your accountant to rectify or alter every such method as may have deviated from the plan that has been here laid.

East India House,
4 March 1774.

I am,
Gentlemen,
With great respect,
Your most obedient humble servant,
John Hoole
Auditor of India Accounts.

III

I O the Honourable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.
Honourable Sirs,

1. You have been informed by the Public Letter from the Revenue Department of the progress which has been made by the pundits or brahmins whom the Board had employed in compiling from the books of their law a code which might serve as a guide to our *dewanny* courts, and we transmitted to you in the packet from that office, as a specimen of the projected work, an English translation of the first chapter. I am indebted to the ability and industry of the translation for the means of furnishing you with a second chapter, which I am desirous of transmitting to you, as it comprehends the most important subject of their laws, the distribution of property by inheritance.

2. From the labours of a people, however, intelligent, whose studies have been confined to the narrow circle of their own religion and the decrees founded upon its superstitions, and whose discussions in the search of truth have wanted that lively aid which it can only derive from a free exertion of the understanding and an opposition of opinions, a perfect system of jurisprudence is not to be expected. Yet if it shall be found to contain nothing hurtful to the authority of government, or to the interests of society and is consonant to the ideas, manners and inclinations of the people for whose use it is intended I presume that on these grounds it will be preferable to any which even a superior wisdom could substitute in its room. It is from this conviction, and from an apprehension of the effects which a contrary opinion might produce, that I have been so earnest in transmitting these sheets for your information as they will afford at least a proof that the people of this country do not require our aid to furnish them with a rule for their conduct or a standard for their property.

3. I have ventured to say thus much on a subject which may possibly appear to have been irregularly obtruded upon your notice because

reports have a long time prevailed, and been communicated to us by the best of private authority, of an intention to frame new courts and forms of judicature for the inhabitants of these provinces. Whatever foundation these reports may have in truth, or whatever may be the extent or principles of the jurisdiction herein supposed, I cannot but express my hope that nothing of this kind may be finally concluded without an opportunity being given to the members of your administration, to communicate such ideas as their experience may suggest to them, and this I conceive to be my duty from the consideration of the hurtful effects which an unadvised system might possibly produce to the quiet of the people and the security of your revenue.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Honourable Sirs,

Your most obedient

and most humble servant,

Warren Hastings.

Fort William,
24th March 1774.

IV

CHAIRMAN of the Honourable Court of Directors of the East India Company, etc.

Sir,

1. We should be wanting in our duty to the East India Company, if we did not submit to you our opinion upon a matter in which we think the Company's service essentially concerned. It relates to the appointment of an Attorney or Advocate General on the part of the Company who may act as council for them in any suits or proceedings before the new Court of Judicature, to be established at Calcutta, in which they may be concerned and also assist the Governor and Council with his advice on many occasions in which, as it appears to us, we cannot safely proceed without such assistance. We beg leave to state to you our reasons for recommending this appointment to your considerations and desire you will be pleased to take an early opportunity of laying them before the Honourable Court of Directors.

1st The Court of Judicature, established by the late Bill of Regulations, is intrusted with large discretionary powers; the Judges are appointed by His Majesty, and are in every respect a distinct body from the Company's servants and independent of the Company's authority. The first object then to be considered is how far it may be necessary or expedient for the Company to have an able law officer on the spot who may watch over their interests and take care that the Court of Judicature does not exceed its legal powers.

2nd The Governor and Council are vested by Parliament with a power to make rules, ordinances and regulations for the good order and civil government of the settlement of Fort William and its subordinates provided that such rules, etc., are not repugnant to the laws of the realm. We conceive that it will be very difficult if not impossible for us to execute duly this important part of our duty without the immediate assistance from some person learned in the laws of England, who may not only instruct us in the legal forms necessary to be observed in the drawing up of such rules and ordinances, but guard us by his advice from issuing any that may be inconsistent with law, or liable to legal objection. We cannot avail ourselves of an extrajudicial opinion of the Judges in this matter, supposing they were inclined to assist us with it, because the consent and approbation of the Court of Judicature to the registry of the rules proposed by the Governor and Council after an interval of twenty days is in the nature of an appeal the benefit of which would be lost, if there were any previous communication and agreement between the legislative and judicial powers.

3rd The late Act of Parliament supposes the Company to be party in various suits to be commenced against persons offending against that act, and we are directed by our instructions to prosecute for embezzlement of the Company's money, for oppression or any other breach of trust. There must also of necessity arise a multiplicity of civil suits before the new Court of Judicature in which the Company may be either plaintiff or defendant, and in all these and similar cases it appears to us indispensably necessary that the Governor and Council should be assisted by the advice of an able lawyer, bound to the interest and acting under the authority of the Company.

2. It will be the duty of such an officer to advise us, concerning the sufficiency of our evidence, and the mode of our proceeding, whether by criminal prosecution for the offence or by civil action for money received for the Company's use, or lastly by a bill in equity for a discovery, according to the nature and circumstances of the case. The Governor and Council will not then run the risque of engaging in fruitless prosecutions or of failing in those which they may think it advisable to commence for want of knowing the exact and most effectual mode of conducting them.

3. In civil actions where the Company may be defendants, it will be the business of this officer to support the interest of the Company, and suggest the proper and most eligible mode of defence.

4. These several matters we conceive are not only of too important but, in many instances, may be of too confidential a nature to be intrusted to any of the attorneys now acting on the spot. Your Governor and Council will evidently want the assistance of a person by whose learning and abilities they may be directed and in whose honour and discretion they may safely confide. But not to trouble the Court of Directors with a multitude of cases and arguments, which their own judgment will naturally suggest to them, we shall only observe that since we are to hold

quarter sessions to act as Justices of Peace and to receive appeals from the country courts the attendance and advice of an Attorney General in all these instances must contribute greatly to the regularity and dignity of our proceedings, and of course to the honour of the Company's government in Bengal.

5. We cannot help expressing our wishes to you, Sir, that the contents of this letter may be taken into consideration by the Honourable Court of Directors as soon as conveniently may be because, we apprehend that, the cases in which the assistance of an Attorney General will be most necessary to the Governor and Council of Bengal will probably arise in the early part of their administration.

We have the honour to be,

With great respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servants,

J. Clavering

Geo. Monson

P. Francis.

Saint Hellena,
12th April 1774.

V

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors of the Honourable the East India Company, etc.

Gentlemen,

1. The great variety of business which engaged your attention when I had the honor of taking leave of you made me choose to postpone laying before you a proposal, which I wish to recommend to you, for the better government of your army in India by creating there the office of Adjutant General till you could have more leisure to consider it.

2. The utility of this office is so apparent to everyone who is conversant in military affairs that there is not an example of a power in Europe which maintains troops that has not established it in its armies.

3. The officer who exercises it is to the army what an adjutant is to a particular corps. He is the executive officer to the Commander-in-Chief. He issues all orders, registers them, superintends the discipline and oeconomy of the whole. He receives the returns, comptrolls them, and finally consolidates them for the use of the state in whose service the troops are employed.

4. From this state of his function you may, gentlemen, conceive the great advantage your service will derive by your creating such an office and more particularly when you reflect that your troops are on different establishments, both as to pay and number, of different nations and most of them judged to be very deficient in those qualities which

constitute the acknowledged superiority of one army to another, *viz.*, discipline, sobriety and subordination.

5. If, therefore, gentlemen, this proposition should meet with your concurrence, I flatter myself you will not disapprove my taking the liberty to recommend Lieutenant Colonel Thornton to you for it. The business of the office can only be exercised by a person in whom the Commander-in-Chief can confide and there is nobody on whose honor and ability I can more depend than on this officer.

6. The importance and dignity of the charge absolutely require that he should have a certain rank in your army. He is Lieutenant Colonel in the King's service and humbly desires only to hold the same rank in your's from the date of his present commission with the same pay as is allowed to officers of that rank.

7. It is very mortifying to me to find myself under the necessity of mixing any thing of my own with an object of so much importance as that which I have just been recommending to you, but having been made to understand from all those officers with whom I have conversed, who have served the Company in a military capacity in India, that the appointment of £6000 a year to your Commander-in-Chief will be very inadequate to the immense expence incumbent on him for his equipage, horses, table, etc., when he takes the field or shall visit the other Presidencies and their different garrisons; you will, therefore, I hope, permit me to submit to your candour and justice the propriety and sufficiency of the above allowance so much inferior to what you have ever granted to those who have been honored with the command of your army, though of inferior rank to myself and under no restrictions either of trading or receiving presents to any amount, and to desire you will be pleased to reconsider the request I had the honor to make you in my memorial of the 7th of March last, which I presented to your Committee of Correspondence, that I might have the same conditions which Sir Eyre Coote had, *viz.*, £6000 a year and £10 per day, when I took the field or was employed from your Presidency of Bengal with boats and coolies to carry my baggage, and likewise that my aides de-camps and secretary might have the same allowance as were granted to the gentlemen who were employed in those stations with Sir Eyre Coote.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,
Gentlemen,

Madeira,
24th April 1774.

Your most obedient and most humble servant,
J. Clavering.

VI

TO Peter Michell Esqr.

Sir,

We desire that you will be pleased to inform the Honourable Court

of Directors that the *Ashburnham* and *Anson* anchored in the Bay of Fonchal on Thursday the 21st of last month and that we landed the next day. We propose to embark again in the course of this day and proceed immediately on our voyage. The captains of the two ships assure us that they have not lost a moment in taking in water and providing such other necessaries as were wanting for our use and that of the ships' company.

We are with great truth and regard,
Sir,

Your most obedient and
most humble servants,

J. Clavering
Geo. Monson
P. Francis.

Madeira,
1st May 1774.

VII

GENTLEMEN,

1. The uncertainty of conveyance from this place in the present season makes it probable that the letters of this date will not reach England before those which we hope to have the honour of addressing to you from Madrass, yet we would not omit any opportunity of informing you of our arrival here. The *Ashburnham* and *Anson* sailed together from Madeira on the 1st of May but parted company in the night of the 27th. We anchored in False Bay on the 3rd instant at midnight and found that the *Anson* had come in two days before us. Neither of our ships saluted the Dutch man-of-war stationed in the Bay.

2. We think it proper to inform you that the Governor and Council of the Cape have received orders from the Governor General of Batavia not to salute French merchant ships since the dissolution of the Company, but that they have departed from this rule in regard to a merchant ship of that nation which came in a few days after us. The ship is called the *Duc de Duras*, and is bound to Surat and Mocha. Monsieur de Briancour, designed Chief or Consul at Surat, and his family are passengers in her. Immediately upon her coming to an anchor she saluted the Dutch commodore with nine guns but in conformity to the orders abovementioned the salute was not returned. The French captain resenting the affront which, he conceived, had been offered him declared to the Commandant of False Bay that if his salute was not returned he would fire a broadside into the Dutch commodore. Notice of this event being sent to the Governor at False Bay a council was thereupon held in which it was resolved that an offer should be made to the French captain to return his salute on condition that he would previously send an

apology for the menaces he had made use of. These terms were readily accepted, the apology made and the salute returned. The pretence alledged by this Government* for deviating from the positive orders received from their superiors and published by themselves is that when the French captain gave the salute he was not apprised of their being bound by their instructions not to return it. We shall only observe upon this extraordinary transaction that we do not understand how the ignorance of the captain of a foreign ship with respect to a point on which he might have informed himself better can justify a government in making any distinction in his favour, especially against their own general rule of conduct; much less can we comprehend how the French captain's making an apology for a very hasty and offensive step could entitle him to any compliment in return.

3. We now beg leave to inform you that two French men-of-war, the *Roland* of sixty-four guns and the *Oiseau* of thirty-six, commanded by Messieurs de Kerguelin and le Rosnevet, put in here about two months ago and sailed from hence a little before our arrival. They have been employed in making discoveries to the southward but it is imagined that as they were absent but eight months from the time they were here before and as in that period they made a voyage to Mauritius, where the *Roland* refitted with masts, they could not have been in very high latitudes. They affected to be very mysterious, as well with respect to the discoveries they had made as to their future destination, so that it is not known with certainty where they have been or whither they are going but it is the general conjecture here that the *Oiseau* is returned to Europe and the *Roland* is bound to Rio de la Plata, on a trading voyage on the captain's account.

4. From the best intelligence we can collect here of the French force in this part of the world we understand that there are three regiments of two battalions each (the names of which with those of their colonels and respective uniforms you will find in the enclosed list) now stationed at Mauritius and Bourbon. The establishment of each battalion is four hundred men and there is also in those islands a corps of artillery of nearly the same numbers. Exclusive of this force they have a regiment of between four and five hundred men, under the command of Beniowsky, stationed upon the island of Madagascar on the north east opposite to Saint Mary's. Beniowsky is the person who escaped from Siberia through Kamschatska to Canton from whence he went to France and returned hither with the command of the above regiment. The object of this enterprise appears at present to be confined to procuring slaves and provisions for Mauritius. We have obtained no particular intelligence of the French marine force in India.

5. The bills drawn on the Comptroller General of France, to the amount of a hundred thousand pounds, for provisions furnished from hence to the island of Mauritius in the year 1771, have not been paid, consequently the credit of that nation is totally sunk here.

6. Ever since the year 1769 a Spanish man-of-war has annually touched here in her way to Manilla. As this measure is contrary to treaty, and has been protested against by the Dutch ambassador at the Court of Spain, it has been judged proper not to allow the Spanish ship any other refreshment than wood and water in this port.

7. Inclosed we have the honour to send you lists of the English, French, Swedish and Danish ships which have touched here in the course of the present year. His Majesty's sloop the *Hawke* sailed from hence a few days before we came in. She had been here about two months.

We propose to embark tomorrow and sail with the first fair wind.

We have honour to be with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most humble servants,

J. Clavering

Geo. Monson

P. Francis.

False Bay,
16th July 1774.

VIII

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors, etc.

Gentlemen,

1. We had the honour of addressing you on the 16th of July from False Bay and now beg leave to inclose to you a duplicate of that letter.

2. We arrived here on the 21st instant, and as the change of the monsoon is now approaching we think it right not to hazard our passage to Bengal by any delay here. We, therefore, propose to embark this afternoon.

We have the honour to be with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and
most humble servants,

J. Clavering

Geo. Monson

P. Francis.

Fort St. George,
23rd September 1774.

IX

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors of the East India Company, etc.

Gentlemen,

1. The tedious passage we have had from England obliging us, on account of the lateness of the season, to hasten our departure from Fort

St. George it has been impossible for me to investigate your military affairs on this Coast otherwise than by employing the few hours I have passed here in as usefull a manner as the shortness of the time would permit. The enclosed copies of letters to Bombay and Bencoolen will shew you what are the principal objects of my attention. To these I have applied myself here and whenever I obtain the information I wish to receive concerning them I will certainly not neglect to communicate them to you. In the meantime I should be wanting in my duty to you if I concealed from you what has passed under my own observation. I speak unwillingly of defects where there is so much to commend but the quality of fire arms is of too much importance not to deliver my sentiments to you concerning the badness of yours, and I venture to speak of them with the more freedom as my own observation has been confirmed to me by General Smith who assures me that on a trial of thirty new ones with good flints put into them, not more than twelve would give fire. Though they cannot be compared in goodness to those which are delivered out of the Tower to the King's troops yet I have always thought the best of those such as the security and honor of a nation should not be trusted to. If to the danger of furnishing troops with bad arms be added inferior gun powder, what more can be wanting to take away the confidence of troops in their own strength. Of the badness of your gun powder I had not an opportunity of verifying the fact, but it seemed to remain uncontradicted that with a small addition of cost it might be made equally good here as in Europe though at a much less expence than that. I can, on the other hand, dwell with pleasure on the great and usefull improvements you have lately made and are now making : I mean the arsenal which is finished and where the arms will be henceforward preserved in the best condition and the fortifications which have been planned with great judgment and are executed with no less care and attention.

2. I accompanied the Governor yesterday along with Colonel Monson and Mr. Francis on a visit to the Nabob, and today he and his family returned it, and I flatter myself that what passed between us on this occasion will tend to cement the union and the confidence which it is so necessary for the prosperity of his affairs, and yours, should always subsist between him and the President and Council of Fort St. George.

I have the honor to be with great respect,
Gentlemen,

Madrass,
September 23rd. 1774.

Your most obedient and most humble servant,
J. Clavering.

X

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United East India Company.

Gentlemen,

We have reserved for a separate letter the mention of a few points which, though of a public nature yet having a more immediate relation to our personal conduct, we thought were not of sufficient moment to be mixed with the important business to which our other letter is confined.

1st. In obedience to the prohibition in the Act of Parliament we have refused all *nazirs* or presents whatsoever. The Governor General has given his reasons for accepting such *nazirs* and paying them into the Company's treasury. Mr. Barwell has also given his reasons for accepting *nazirs* and not paying them over to the Company. They all appear in the inclosed extract of the Consultation of the 7th of November 1774. We have constantly accompanied our refusal of presents with an explanation of our motives and with such assurances of regard and other marks of respect according to the rank of the persons as, we are convinced, have cleared us from any suspicion of intending to give them offence. We strongly agree with you in opinion that the receipt of trifling presents, though practised by men of unquestionable honour and upright intentions, forms a precedent very liable to be extended and abused. With respect to the people of the country we have reason to believe that they are as well satisfied with our behaviour to them as men can be who from the hopes of favour are reduced to the certainty of justice. Making every allowance for the force of prejudice and custom, they are not so dull as to be incapable of understanding, that it is possible to be their friends without taking their money.

2. We have not yet received a visit which Mahomed Reza Cawn was desirous to pay us. He has been acquitted of the charges brought against him, and is now at large; but as that acquittal is not yet confirmed by your approbation, as we know nothing of the reasons on which it was founded, and as our receiving and returning his visit might imply that we are satisfied of his innocence (against which, however, we do not mean to give any opinion) we thought it safer to decline his visit until your pleasure concerning him should be known, than to commit ourselves by demonstrations of favour to him, which we might afterwards be obliged to retract.

3. In the establishment of our expences and regulation of our families we apprehend that we have conformed strictly to your intentions in consulting oeconomy and moderation more than vain appearance. We had long ago determined to follow this plan, as well for own interest, as for the sake of proposing a useful example to others, but we had before our arrival no conception of the degree in which such an example is wanted in this country. Besides the consideration of private distress to individuals we are satisfied that the consequences of it affect the public service. Ruinous expences have a natural tendency to accommodate the minds of men to such measures of recovery as the same men would probably reject if they had only a fortune to make instead of a fortune to repair.

4. You will see upon the Consultations that we have agreed to the

appointment of Captain Brooke¹ to command an independent corps of the Vizier's troops to be employed in conjunction with the army under Nudjuff Cawn in defensive measures only as the conquest of the Jauts has long since been completed. In this instance we have yielded against our strict judgement to considerations of personal respect to Mr. Hastings. Captain Brooke was sometime ago appointed by him to this employment and is now, we believe, at the Vizier's Court. To have recalled him from thence could not fail to have been attended with present pain and offence to Mr. Hastings which we are determined as much as possible to avoid. We have rested our assent on this single consideration and left it with him to justify the measure to you. The only restraint we have desired to lay on Captain Brooke (exclusive of what his duty to you of course implies) is that he shall in no case enter the country of the Rohillas.

5. Since the drawing up of this and the preceding letter we are now informed, for the first time, that Major Polier who, as we were given to understand by Mr. Hastings, was employed in the Vizier's country on the surveying service only joined the army under Nudjuff Cawn and had a considerable if not a principal share in the direction of the siege of Agra.² The fact not being disputed we shall think it our duty to inquire, as soon as possible after the departure of this ship, whether Major Polier has acted in this instance with or without permission from hence. The next question will be under what particular authority and instructions he has acted, and you shall be exactly informed of the result of our inquiries.

6. It only remains for us to apprise you that the last minute from Mr. Barwell was not communicated to us until the night of the 23rd instant though it professes to be an answer to Mr. Francis's minutes of the 31st of October³. Besides the inconvenience and irregularity of resuming a question at such distant intervals (especially when the measure referred to is not only resolved upon but executed) we really have not time to continue the debate. We have perused Mr. Barwell's minute and are content to leave him in possession of the argument. Mr. Francis, in a separate minute, has given him the explanation he desired.

7. Touching matters of fact we could have wished that Mr. Barwell had been more guarded in his assertions. He is pleased to affirm that we took our resolutions "without taking time to inquire fully into the design and nature of our engagements with the Vizier, and without even reading the correspondence with Mr. Middleton which had been called for and were then laying on the table unopened." As this is only a bare unsupported affirmation we answer it with a simple denial, supported however by the internal evidence of our several minutes and of this dispatch. It is possible we may have erred in judgement, but we think there is no colour for accusing us of having taken our resolution without consulting all the records by which it could any way be affected. We think it will require no asseverations on our part to convince you that the series of facts and opinions, which we have had the

honour to lay before you, could never have been traced and collected in the manner it has been if we had not examined the papers, which were open to our inspection, with more than common assiduity and attention.

8. The letters, prepared for this dispatch by the late President and Council in their Secret and Public Departments, have not yet been communicated to us. We, therefore, cannot pretend to form any opinion concerning the contents of them.

We have the honour to be with the greatest respect,
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and
most humble servants,

J. Clavering

Geo. Monson

P. Francis.

Fort William,
30th November 1774.

XI

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors of the United East India Company, etc.

Gentlemen,

1. I did myself the honor to address you on my departure from Madrass, by my letter of the 23rd September, accompanying it with copies of the letters I had written to the Governor of Bombay and to Brigadier Gordon the commander of the troops there, to which I have yet received no answers.

2. I likewise took the liberty to represent to you the opinion I had formed of the firelocks, which I examined in your arsenal, which appeared to me to be the worst I had ever seen; and though it has been represented to me since that they are not all of so inferior a quality I must again declare that I took some down in different parts of the arsenal and did not find one that I thought was equal in goodness to those I had been used to see in the King's army. What I represented to you concerning the gun powder was only the report I received of it from your first officers there without any trial made on it by myself; but I have great reason to believe the fact to be true from the unanimity of their declarations.

3. Whilst I have the honor to direct your military affairs in India you may rely on my never suppressing any well-grounded opinion I may entertain of them, however the fidelity of the representation may affect the interest of any individual whatever, or number of people.

4. The transitory visit I made at Madrass would naturally make me wish to defer delivering my sentiments on your service at that Presidency either till I can receive the report which General Smith has promised to

send to me of it or that I can investigate it myself personally; but there is one circumstance which though it appears to me to be of much moment, perhaps I should not have ventured to have offered my opinion upon it to you had I not perceived that the plan had been conceived by some of the best officers who have commanded your troops on the Coast and who have had an opportunity of acquiring a local knowledge of that whole country. It is on the position or station of the major part of your troops. I will explain myself upon the subject more accurately desiring only that you will condescend to turn your attention for a moment to the map of the coast of Coromandel and examine it by the position of the places referred to in the paper no. 1 where your troops are stationed. Of 16,190 men, exclusive of those at Balambangan, which are to protect the Carnatick, almost from Cape Comorin to the Kistna, 5,976 of them are to the southward of the Colleroon, and part of them as far as Madura and even as far as Palam Cotah, and, consequently, there remains for the defence of Madrass and the whole country from the Colleroon to the Kistna but 10,214, of which, after deducting the garrison of Ongole, on account of its great distance, a proper force to be left in Fort St. George at Vellore, Amboor and Cuddalore, what would remain to take the field would scarcely be sufficient to oppose, with success, a powerfull enemy. In case of a war either with the French, Hyder Ally or the Marattas, singly or united with any one of those powers, and that they should invade, as they most probably would, the Carnatick, and should assemble their forces in the neighbourhood of Gingi, I think, you would be obliged to risk an engagment upon disadvantageous terms in order to procure an union with such part of the force as could be spared from the garrison to the southward of the Colleroon, and the loss of a battle would be the loss of your *jaghire* lands for a time; whereas by quitting that over-extensive plan of defence to the southward and keeping at least always a brigade upon the river Paler in the neighbourhood of Conjeveram you would be provided against every danger that could happen; you would be in force to march against the first invader and perhaps to defeat the French or their allies whomsoever they may be. In the meantime the communication between your army and Madrass would remain open and safe to afford assistance reciprocally to each other. To this great and important advantage may be added that your army cantoned in such a station would equally be ready to defend the country to the northward of Madrass from an attack of the *subah* of the Decan or even to afford assistance to the 6 battalions which are dispersed at so great a distance in the Circars. I mention the station of Conjeveram, not from any local information I have of it and, therefore, if you should think proper to approve of the measure, the particular spot where it would be proper to establish the cantonment should be referred to persons who have a local knowledge of that part of the country respecting the quality of the air, the water, or the greater, or less facility of supplying the troops with provisions. But if this proposition for uniting your troops in a more centrical situation should anyways interfere with any maxims of

good policy you may have laid down with regard to the Nabob, or with any commercial advantages which you draw from the country to the southward of the Colleroon, you will be pleased to consider that I only recommend it in a military view without a reference to other objects with which I must be supposed to be totally unacquainted.

5. I have not yet had an opportunity of transmitting to the Governor and Commanding Officer of the troops at Fort Marlborough the letters of which I had the honor to enclose you copies and consequently you must not expect to receive any returns of them from me for some time. I understand the fort still remains in the ruined state, in which it was left by the French when they evacuated it; but as its value and importance is so well known to you, I will not presume to interfere further than simply mentioning the situation it is in.

6. I arrived at this Presidency on the 19th October, and as the order of publishing the respective commissions of the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief, together with your instructions, was delayed till the 27th I could not of course until then assume the command of your troops so as to send copies of those commissions and instructions to the different stations of the army.

7. On the 24th an order was made in the Council and directed to me to report to the Board the state and disposition of the army, magazines, barracks, stores, with such observations thereupon as I should think proper. Agreeably to this direction I transmitted the order of the Council to the different commanding officers of brigades and separate corps as also to those who have the charge of the barracks and magazines, explaining to them that I desired to be particularly informed of the actual state of the arms, the cloathing, of the ammunition for the use of the brigade and other corps and that of the stores of all kinds that were in the magazines.

8. From the great distance and dispersion of the several corps I have not yet been able to receive answers to my letters and consequently I have not been able to make any other report to the Board, on their general order, than simply a report of the disposition of the army; a copy of which together with a return of the establishment and present effectives, as I shall present it tomorrow to the Council, are herewith enclosed no. 2, no. 3.

9. In order to give you the most clear and comprehensive knowledge of the state of your army I have drawn out a new form of a return, which I am now transmitting to the brigades, and if it answers my expectation, I propose ordering the returns on the Coast to be made to me on a similar plan.

10. From the enquiries I have made into the state of your stores I can already perceive that great improvement may be made in the management and control of them. If I can depend on the information I have received there is reason to believe that the return you will receive from the Storekeeper's office will not correspond to the actual quantity in store. It is, therefore, my determination, immediately after the dispatch of this ship, by

virtue of the power that the Council has given to me, to cause a survey to be made of the stores after which you will receive a return of the actual quantity. I will endeavour likewise that the survey shall extend to all the other magazines for I find that besides the indents that are made from the inferior magazines without any comptroll, both as to the limitation of the quantity and of the assortment of stores, some of which though they were judged by the Storekeeper absolutely unnecessary yet he was not authorised to prevent their being furnished and sent away. But if the providing the magazines with stores was irregular the expenditure of them appears to be still more so. I understand that the Storekeepers of these inferior magazines do not render an account of the particular issues, excepting it may be to the Governor General; the Storekeeper at the Presidency neither knowing the service for which such deliveries have been made nor the persons to whom they were assigned. The returns of the Storekeepers which are sent you by that office will prove that this is exactly the case.

11. The Governor General seems to apprehend that great inconveniencies will ensue by the troops called Militia Invalid Sepoys, who were raised for the express purpose of protecting the *aurungs*, and collection, being under the comptroll of the Commander-in-Chief. Although, I believe, this apprehension of the Governor General arises not from any complaint, that he has received of my interference with the orders they were under before, seeing, that I have sent to the officers, who command them, no others, than those which accompanied the Governor General's and Commander-in-Chief's commissions, enjoining those officers, at the same time, most expressly to pay due obedience to your particular commands in the 54th paragraph of your instructions relating to the assistance which they were to afford the chiefs of subordinates; excepting the applications, I was obliged to make to the chiefs of each corps, for a return of their arms, cloathing, ammunition and other stores which might be in their custody, in pursuance of the report I am directed to make to the Council, yet so little desirous am I to have anything to do with these troops notwithstanding they make a part of your military establishment and are more particularly described in the abovementioned paragraph of your instructions, to be subject to my command, that I have proposed to the Governor General that they should be under the comptroll of the Council. Under some comptroll they certainly ought to be, for exclusive of the abuses, which so large a body of troops, consisting of 3,200 men are liable to, whilst they are under the immediate direction of the chiefs of subordinates, engaged, themselves, in mercantile transactions, and who hereafter must be separated from the branch of the revenue, and collections, for the purpose of which those troops were principally raised, and, on the contrary, were they placed intirely and absolutely under the collector or chief of the Revenue Council, as that may be established, equal inconveniencies may follow from their particular employment of them so that it appears to me there can be no other way of managing those troops than to give intire command of them to the military officer, enjoining him to supply both

services when required but to take care that they are employed only on the service of the Company.

12. The season for exercising the troops having commenced some time after my arrival here I thought it right to give them a proper time to prepare themselves before I saw them. It was not, therefore, till last Saturday, the 26th, that I reviewed the two companies of artillery, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Pearse, which are in garrison at Fort William. The serjeants are old but the men in general are good and very fit for service. They performed their exercise with exactness and alacrity and the officers shewed great attention to their duty. The field return which I enclose, no. 4, will shew you precisely the number of men they could bring into the field at exercise and which will always prove to you better than any other return the real and effective force of each corps. I have not failed to represent to the commanding officers the opinion that prevailed in Europe of the drunkenness of the private men. They assure me it is impossible to prevent it, that spirituous liquors are introduced into the Fort by so many different artifices, that the vigilance of the guards are constantly illuded.

13. The recruits sent from England in this year I have seen, and I am very glad to give my testimony in confirmation of the good report that was made to you of them before I left England. The number, however, was short of that which was wanted and I believe you would never over-compleat this establishment were you to consign annually 700 men for this Presidency.

14. With regard to the fortifications of Fort William I have been disappointed in the expectation I had conceived that I should have found them nearly finished, but as you know, gentlemen, that the works have been intirely discontinued these fifteen months past it will account to you for the work that still remains to be done in order to finish them. Within this time an increase of work and expence has been superadded by the falling down of the facing to the rampart which is opposed to the river. The appearance of this to all shipping which navigate the river is certainly very disgracefull, and ought, on that account, to be repaired even if the safety of the Fort in case of an attack on it was intirely out of the question. But there occurs a difficulty in re-establishing the wall on which I could wish your sentiments were known by the advice you may receive on the subject from either Colonel Campbell or such other engineer whom you may think proper to consult on the occasion, before anything is undertaken upon it.

15. I believe you are acquainted that the wall or facing of the whole cordon or circuit of the place excepting the shoulders of the bastions is cracked and bulged in many places, so that probably in a few years the greatest part of it will likewise fall down. Whatever were the intentions of the engineer who constructed this wall it is very certain from the manner, with which it is built, it could not be durable, being only a foot thick from top to bottom whilst the slope of the rampart is 10 feet in the height of 15, it follows of course, that it must depend on the earth behind it for its

support and consequently would recline on the earth in proportion as that gave way either by its own gravity or by the water insinuating itself between the wall and the earth and carrying away its parts. The Chief Engineer has, therefore, given his opinion clearly against rebuilding it on the same principle but advises that it should be of a thicker construction and supported behind with counter forts with the intervals filled up with a kind of lime rubbish, called the core of the *chunam*, and *soorky* which will cement and form a compact body with the wall. Whether a better or cheaper method than this can be suggested I profess I cannot pretend to determine; it requires a practised knowledge of military architecture with that of the particular construction of this fortification, as it is connected systematically in all its parts, together with the price and species of the materials which are here proposed of which nobody can inform you better than Colonel Campbell. Therefore, I shall recommend to the Council that nothing be undertaken in this business untill your orders are received upon it without some evident necessity should require it to be done before.

16. The Governor General having proposed the appropriation of the six lacks, out of the eight, you have allowed to be expended in military and civil buildings, towards the continuation and finishing the works in the Fort it has been resolved to finish the ravelins to the north and south of the Fort nearest the river, to fix drawbridges at all the gates, to build barracks, which are much wanted, and some store houses for lodging the military stores.

17. In order to enable you to form your judgement with more precision and clearness on works which are intended to be undertaken this year, as well as what will afterwards remain unfinished, I have desired the Chief Engineer to draw a plan for your information, of its actual state to which on a separate paper annexed to it to add another plan of the works to be compleated this year, in case the six lacks are appropriated solely to them, but I doubt much whether they can be compleated so as to go by this ship.

18. You will see by our voluminous Consultations, and by the extracts, that have been made to serve as a proof to the facts Colonel Monson, Mr. Francis and myself have advanced in the separate letter we have written to you, how little time I have been able to bestow on the Military Department which has been intrusted to me; yet that alone to execute it with the care and method it requires could not be performed if I had not the benefit of some assistance.

19. I addressed you from Madeira for the field allowance and travelling expences, which you formerly granted to Sir Eyre Coote, that my situation might not vary to my disadvantage in proportion as I was employed more actively in your service or in proportion as every other officer benefits by his double *batta*. Let but the contingent expences of a Committee of Circuit, or a voyage to Banaras of the commanders of your armies to this moment be examined and you will, I dare say, see how much they exceed the allowance I ask of you.

20. But however important the obtaining this allowance for field expences and travelling charges may be it does not sway with me so much as that your business in your Military Department should be done with method, integrity and honor in the extensive branch, which you have committed to my care, at your different Presidencies in India and which cannot be performed without the aid of an official Adjutant General. There has been indeed one appointed for this country by the late President and Council. But whether this appointment, which was made without your permission, be approved or not by you I am sure you will be too indulgent to me to expect that I should give my confidence to an intire stranger, that I should be answerable for his conduct in the various transactions of an army to which the authority and name of the Commander is always pledged.

21. I do not mention this to derogate from the character or ability of the present Adjutant General, who was appointed at the beginning of the campaign, but to shew how necessary it is that the person who is to officiate from morning till night with the Commander of the army, who must of course be of his household, should be an officer of his own appointment.

22. I cannot conclude this letter without taking the liberty to mention a subject to you, however unconnected it may be with your military concerns as it is the only opportunity I have of addressing you myself. It is to inform you what I have done and shall do relative to presents. Considering them as totally prohibited by the Legislature, both by the spirit and letter of the Act of Parliament for regulating India affairs, I have inviolably adhered to it even to the refusing the merest trifles for my table, and so far from finding that this conduct has given offence I have reason to believe that many of the rajahs of the country who are daily sending their *vaqueels* here are exceedingly well pleased with my conduct, and cannot from thence entertain a doubt, but that if the Act of Parliament was diffused throughout India, all the different princes would applaud the Legislature for the injunctions it has laid us under.

23. When I came here I found a present of cloth from the Nabob of Arcott with a congratulatory letter on my arrival. I have obtained permission of the Governor General to answer it and shall send back the cloth by Sir Edward Hughes, in the month of January, when he goes to Madrass, but, in the meantime, I have written to Mr. Wynch to desire him to prepare the Nabob for the return of his present by such representations as he may think proper on the occasion so as to obtain his approval of a measure which will shew him the necessity we are under to obey the laws of our country.

I have the honor to be with great respect,
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and
most humble servant,
J. Clavering.

P.S. Although you may have been apprised by the Governor General

of the permission he has granted to some officers to serve in the troops of the Vizier, and that he has permitted Captain Brooke, with the sanction of the Council, to serve Nudjiff Cawn I think it proper, in the station I am in, not to omit remarking such permissions to you.

In this paquet, no. 5, you will receive a return of your army on the coast of Coromandel according to its effective state in July last.

No. 6. is a sketch of two different plans for the facing of the redans of the rampart.

The other enclosures refered to in this letter having been omitted to be copied I must request the Court of Directors to accept of my excuses for sending them.

Calcutta,
November 30th, 1774.

J.C.

XII

To Edward Wheler Esqr, Chairman, Court of Directors.

Sir,

1. The load of public business which you will see has fallen heavily upon us, will leave us but little time to acquit ourselves of the personal duties we owe to every gentleman in the Direction. We would not omit, however, to offer our sincere congratulations to yourself and Mr. Harrison on the well-deserved honour which has been done you by the India Company. We are happy in seeing that men whom we have so many personal reasons to esteem, are placed in offices in which they may render the most important services to the public.

2. The fatal differences, which have arisen almost immediately upon our arrival here, between our colleagues and us will naturally alarm the Court of Directors. All the observations we shall make upon them here is that they arose from the new and unexpected state of things not from any personal dislike or cause of offence on either side. At the same time it is absolutely necessary you should be apprised that we are very apprehensive that these unhappy difference, will not be confined to a single object.

3. We fear that besides the political they will extend to other important branches of administration. We wait the decision of the Court of Directors upon the great points now before them and we hope that, in justice to all parties, it will be clear, precise and peremptory and that such a line will be drawn for our future guidance as will leave no possibility of doubt or mistake hereafter.

4. If the Court of Directors, according to the profest expectations of Mr. Hastings, should approve and confirm the new system of offensive policy adopted here we may then expect that, on the same principles other

innovations, equally important perhaps in the internal government, will receive the same confirmation.

5. We for ourselves have no idea that the Court of Directors can hesitate about their decision. We have hitherto followed the Company's instructions to their servants here as strictly as possible. If they should think proper to overturn the old system in all its parts and to establish the new one in the place of it, which it is indeed almost disrespectful to them to suppose possible, it will then be our duty either to renounce all the ideas we had already received from them and adopt new ones as they do or to tell you honestly that it will be better for the interest of the Company that they should appoint other men to carry their new system into execution. Untill this decision comes we shall exert our utmost efforts to prevent any material inconvenience arising to the public service from any future disagreement in Council.

6. As it had been resolved to close the Company's dispatch by the *British King* on the 30th of November all our letters and minutes were accordingly prepared and sealed up yesterday morning.

7. At a late hour that night the letters from the late President and Council in their Public and Secret Department were communicated to us for the first time. You will observe that the above letters are dated the 17th of October yet it is to us very evident from the drift of them, that they have been formed upon a view of certain discussions which have taken place since that time. If they had been prepared as they profess to be on the 17th of October it will be difficult to assign any fair or decent reason for their being withheld from us untill the moment of the departure of the ship. We for ourselves are very much inclined to believe that it was the sight of the arguments contained in our minutes, from the 25th of October to this time, which induced the late President and Council to give their letter a turn of defence and apology which, though in our opinion very suitable to their conduct, they would not otherwise have adopted.

8. In point of fact they forget the date of their letter when they say in the 23rd paragraph that "they had undoubted altho' not regular Intelligence of the Rohilla War being actually ended by a Treaty between the Vizier and Fyzoola Cawn." The treaty they allude to was concluded on the 6th of October on the skirts of the mountains of Tibet, and we affirm that no intelligence whatever of its being concluded was or could possibly be received here before the end of the month¹.

9. It is too late for us to attempt to make many particular observations on this new matter by the the present ship. Perhaps we may do it by the next conveyance ; whether we do or not, the Company is in possession of materials sufficient to determine upon the first great question between us and our colleagues.

10. We cannot refrain, however, from communicating to you the general impression which the stile and substance of this letter has made upon our minds. It is that as, in our opinion, the late Administration have *done* more than can be morally or politically defended so on the other

hand they *say* more than wise men would confess.

11. Their letter appears to us to contain a compleat self condemnation. They acknowledge that the actual orders of the Company confined them within the limits of their own and the Vizier's possessions and that when they first past the line of the Vizier's dominions though it was solely upon a defensive principle to check the progress of the Marattas yet they did it with extreme diffidence and reluctance. The next measure, however, proposed to them, from which one would think (considering the diffidence and reluctance they felt in taking a much more defensible resolution) they would have started back with abhorrence, is to invade and extirpate the very people whom they set out with defending. This they are pleased to call "an uncommon Measure, undertaken without positive Instructions, at their own Risk with the eyes of the whole nation on the Affairs of the Company and the Passions and Prejudices of almost every Man in England, inflamed against the Conduct of the Company and the Character of their Servants." Forgive us, sir, if for a moment we step aside to vindicate the India Company from this daring aspersion. If the mind of almost every man in England was inflamed it was not against the Company. It was well understood, we believe, by every man in England that the real proprietors of stock, who constitute the Company, were sacrificed to private interests, and that, in their corporate capacity, they were much more the objects of national care and compassion than of national resentment. In this instance we are not scrupulous of expressing ourselves with a degree of warmth, to which we have never yielded on any other occasion, because we feel for the honour of the Company and think ourselves called upon to defend it.

12. The late President and Council are pleased to tell the Court of Directors that they have undertaken this uncommon measure not only at their own risk *but in spite of the suggestions and the checks of self interest*. Such propositions as these should neither be asserted nor denied without strong proofs. We shall, therefore, content ourselves with observing that it is not unusual for men to expose themselves to personal hazard where their personal interest requires it, but that to sacrifice self-interest and to incur a manifest danger by the same act implies such a strain of elevated virtue as, we believe, is very new in the latter part of the history of Bengal and as we fear we shall be unable to imitate.

13. We will not weary your patience with tracing with extraordinary letter through all its obscurities and contradictions. We have, however, one remark more to make which we think too material to be omitted.

14. The late President and Council refer to a letter from the Court of Directors of the 20thth of August 1771, for an implied authority to countenance the late offensive measures. They say that in that letter the Court of Directors, "have expressed in stronger Terms than ever they had done before, their Intention in certain cases of authorising their Departure from the defensive Principles hitherto recommended and enjoined."

15. We have looked into the letter abovementioned and find that

the offensive measures therein mentioned had no object, in the mind of the Directors, but to repel the invasions of the Marattas, that even these measures were simply in contemplation, and the execution of them or any step leading to it, positively forbidden untill further orders. The prohibition then concluded with the following words "in the meantime we trust that your sole Objects will be the Security of our Possessions and those of the Powers, with whom we are connected both by Treaty and Interest, and as this appears to have been the Guide of your Conduct upon the Marattas invading the province of Korah, we with Pleasure approve the Measures you have taken for defending the Dominions of the King and Vizier from their Inroads and Depredations, more especially as those measures are not only justified by Necessity, but are within the Line which we have prescribed for your Conduct in such a Conjecture."

16. The last argument urged by the late President and Council in their defence, and purposely reserved for the conclusion of their letter, in order to leave a flattering impression on the minds of the Directors, is "that they return to a *State of Peace with actual Possession or acknowledged Right of near seventy Lack of Rupees.*"

17. We hope indeed that we are returning to a state of peace, though in fact our hopes on this head are more than ballanced by our apprehensions. On the remaining part of the assertion we observe that of the forty lacks stipulated for the Rohilla expedition, and which they mention in another place *as so much specie added to the exhausted currency of these provinces*, not one rupee has yet been paid nor do we think, as things were managed by the late President and Council, it ever would have been recovered. By the remaining thirty lack must be meant the saving to the Company on the pay of the Brigade. We have made some general observations on this subject in our letter to the Court of Directors. In this place we shall only take notice that the savings on the head of pay, even supposing no extraordinary expence be incurred by the Company beyond the amount of the Suja Dowla's subsidy, is manifestly overrated.

18. The ordinary expence of a brigade in quarters at Dinapore is computed at 1,08,059 *sicca* rupees, per month. The Second Brigade did not enter into Suja Dowla's pay untill the 24th of February last, and supposing them to continue in it to the end of the present year the whole saving would in that case be only 10,80,590 *sicca* rupees. Even the subsidy received from Suja Dowla, being spent in his or the Rohilla country is of no benefit to these provinces.

19. We desire you will be so good as to present our best respects to the Deputy Chairman and to all the gentlemen in the Direction.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servants,

J. Clavering

Geo. Monson

P. Francis.

Fort William,
1st December, 1774.

P. S. Mr. Hastings on one side and we on the other have reciprocally engaged our honour to each other that we will not write one word, upon public business or in any shape relative to the questions between us, to the Court of Directors or to any gentleman in the Direction except what we mutually communicate to each other. We shall accordingly deliver a copy of this letter to Mr. Hastings, and think it probable that it may be recorded.

XIII

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The accompanying sheets were originally begun in the form in which they now appear of a regular minute, entered for a record on the Consultations, but to be transmitted also a number in the packet by the ship now under dispatch for your immediate perusal. But understanding since that the members composing the majority of the Council have drawn up a similar appeal in a letter to your Honourable Court I consider it my duty to address you in the same form, with the proposed minute as an enclosure, earnestly recommending it to your attention.

2. In these papers I have confined myself to the subjects on which they were expressly written, namely the justification of the late campaign and the examination of the acts of the new Council. Not having yet seen their letter I cannot reply particularly to any other charge which it may contain yet I will beg leave to offer a few necessary remarks upon the state of your collections, treasury and expences as these are points on which the enquiries of the gentlemen of the majority, unless conducted with great care, may have misled them and of which it may be of very material consequence to me to prevent any impressions which their representation may make in default of more authentic information.

3. That the collections should be less than they were some years ago is an unavoidable consequence of the loss of inhabitants which this country sustained in the dreadful calamity of the year 1770. It must still be the case in spite of every effort we may make. But the circumstances of this and of the other causes which have contributed to the reduction of the revenue (particularly the anticipation of it in the salt districts) have been so often enlarged upon in letters from the late Administration that I will not trouble you with a repetition. The actual receipts of last year (the Bengal year 1180) do, however, exceed those of the preceeding year by three lacks of rupees, exclusive of the profit on the salt

In the following
General Letters:
November 1772,
Paragraph 7,
8, 9, 10, 11 and 48.
3rd December
1772, Paragraph 6.
27th February
1773. Paragraph
29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36.
10th November
1773, Paragraph 3,
32, 33.

31st December
Paragraphs
6,7,8,14;
15th March 1774
Paragraph 10;
13th October
1774, Paragraph 5.

trade which is quiet a new fund and has amounted, independently on the duties, to *sicca* rupees ten lacks fifty eight thousand two hundred and fourteen (Sa. Rs. 10,58, 214), and the very voluminous proceedings of the Revenue Council will evince how much of our time and attention has been engaged by this branch of your affairs.

4. The estimates transmitted you, by the *Resolution*, which shew a saving of current rupees twenty two lacks ninety five thousand seven hundred and seventeen (C. Rs. 22,95,717,) in the civil expences and current rupees twenty four lacks forty three thousand one hundred and nineteen (C. Rs. 24,43,119,) in the military and our proceedings in the Board of Inspection, which I beg leave to recommend to your observation, will satisfy you that our best endeavours have been exerted to establish the system of economy and method which you have so repeatedly enjoined; and as the stronger proof of the success of these our endeavours and of the prosperity of your affairs I submit to your consideration the following short sketch of our present resources compared with our situation a twelve month ago.

5. At the end of August 1773 our bond debt amounted to current rupees one hundred and twenty-five lacks, fifty-five thousand six hundred and seven (C. Rs. 1,25,55,607) and the temporary loan, which we had with difficulty raised, was barely sufficient to supply our present expences. The debt is now reduced to current rupees one hundred and ten lacks seventy two thousand seven hundred and twenty-four (C. Rs. 1,10,72,724). Provision has been made for a much larger investment than was procured last year. Seventy lacks of rupees are to be received from the Vizier of which the greatest part is now in course of payment, and although we avoided drawing any bill upon you last season and have strictly confined ourselves this season to the sum limited by your orders there is at this time a balance of current rupees eighty lacks forty nine thousand eight hundred and six (C. Rs. 80,49,806) actually lying in our treasuries as particularized in the inclosed account.

6. I do not expect that the services on which your military forces have been employed (excepting in the single instance of the Rohilla war) will be made an article against me yet I will not leave this subject unnoticed.

7. Every military expedition conducted during the period in which I lately presided in the administration has been concerted for services of solid utility and calculated for precise terminations.

8. The campaign of 1773 had the recovery of the districts of Cora for its immediate object and the application of it to the relief of the Company's wants for its termination; and it was begun and concluded long within the space of a year.

9. The last campaign has been ended with the most complete success in eight months, and exclusive of its political effects has added many lacks to your pecuniary resources. Even in the less considerable services in which detachments of your forces have been employed some

beneficial end has been carefully attended to, regular plans have been concerted and steadily pursued. By Captain Carnac's [Camac's] operations at Ramgur that country has been brought into subjection and a considerable addition of revenue acquired. By the battalion employed in the Jungle Terry or track of country which was considered as inaccessible and unknown and only served as a receptacle to robbers has been reduced to government, the inhabitants civilized and not only the reduction of the revenue, which was occasioned by their ravages, prevented but some revenue yielded from the country itself which a prosecution of the same measures will improve. The Cooch Beyhar expedition produced its full effects in the settlement of that country; and even the detachments employed against the Seniasses compleatly answered the intention for which they were ordered.

10. Whatever errors may have fallen to the share of the late Administration I trust that they will not be found in points of real magnitude. As to those which may appear on measures of little moment such are unavoidable. They are necessary to a government so constituted and crowded with objects so various, as this has been, the first principle of which is dispatch; and our records are the best evidences of the regard we have paid to this principle. On these too I shall rest for proof that it will not be my fault if our future records shall present you with minutes of controversy, protests, charges and recriminations instead of that rapid progression of business and cordial attention to your interests, even in the anticipation of your commands, which it was my happiness to experience in the labors of the gentlemen who were formerly united with me in the charge of your affairs.

11. Painful as my situation is likely to prove and unsuitable to my disposition it is my determined resolution to retain the place which your favor originally assigned me, and the Legislature has since so honorably confirmed untill your justice shall decide between me and my opponents. My only resources are in the knowledge, however imperfect, which a long and local practice in the affairs of this Presidency may have furnished me and of which the gentlemen of the majority, even for their own sakes, will not deny me the application, and in the experience and abilities of Mr. Barwell whose support I thankfully acknowledge with the more pleasure as I esteem it to proceed more from a just conviction of the propriety of my conduct than personal attachment.

12. I beg leave in all submission to observe that this is not a case to which palliatives can be applied. The Legislature has enacted that a Council consisting of five members should form a general administration for your affairs in Bengal and for your political interests in all India. By the manner in which the Parliament thought proper to express the office of Governor General as distinct from the Council as well as by universal usage some peculiar power and responsibility seemed tacitly reserved for him above the other members of the Council. But if it shall appear to you that his authority, as the executive and ostensible instrument

of your Government, has been overpowered and that a majority consisting of three members of the Council has been formed, not by an accidental variation in opinion but by a decided and permanent combination against the other two, it will necessarily follow that the intentions of the Parliament have been frustrated and the Council in effect made to consist of three members instead of five; and that, therefore, nothing but a decisive remedy can restore that harmony to the Government which is irrecoverably lost to the parts of which the present is composed and save your property and the national interests in these provinces from anarchy and ruin.

13. I will not quit the ground which I stand on, in this address, to appeal to the large portion of my life spent in your service nor to the important trusts in which it was my lot to be employed from the earliest period of it. I rest my cause solely on the measures which have drawn me into my present vindication. I adopted them for your benefit and for the national honor, and I know they have been productive of both to the utmost reach of my wishes. Relying on your justice and on the consciousness of my own integrity I shall wait, with patience, for your determination on the subjects of this address nor shall my care be wanting to prevent your affairs from suffering in the long interval which must be unavoidably left to disorder.

14. If you should judge me fit to be continued in the chief direction of your affairs I have already said and yet repeat that I was willing and desirous to devote what remains of the active season of my life to your service. But allow me, Honourable Sirs, to hope that I may be furnished with means equal to the responsibility which ought and must be annexed to the first station whosoever shall fill it.

15. If on the contrary it shall be decreed either by your Honourable Court or by yet higher authority that I shall yield my place to another I shall submit without a murmur to the sentence, nor shall the severity of it make me lose the sense of gratitude which I feel and owe to the obligations already laid upon me, although it will be impossible for me to forego the conscious pride of having, even in the most obnoxious instance of my public conduct, manifested that principle by an undeviating attachment to the interests of the Company which I have ever regarded as the interests of my country.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect

Honourable Sirs,

Your most faithful and

most obedient humble servant,

Warren Hastings.

Fort William,
3rd December 1774.

XIV

To the Honourable Court of Directors, etc.

Gentlemen,

1. By the delay that has happened in the departure of the *British King*, I have had an opportunity of reviewing the five companies of the 1st regiment under the command of Colonel Wilding, and it is with the greatest pleasure I can now acquaint you that I have been most agreeably disappointed in the idea I had formed of the state of discipline in your army, and although I think there is still wanting a certain agility, and freedom of movement, which may soon be acquired, yet as to the exactness of the exercise and the attention both of the men and officers it could not be exceeded by any troops whatever. Therefore, to do the troops the justice they deserve I not only signified to them my intire approbation on the spot but I ordered the same to be inserted in the orders and to be read at the head of the troops with the addition that I would transmit this approbation to you, gentlemen, for your information knowing how agreeable it would be to you.

2. Major Hannay is just arrived with Colonel Champion from the army, and having desired to continue his functions of Adjutant General I have acquainted him that I did not conceive that I could be justified towards you in permitting him to do it till your pleasure was made known to us relative to your approbation of that appointment, and further that I did not imagine the late President and Council could create the office of Adjutant General without your permission and that being ignorant of what had happened in Bengal, I had written to you from Madeira to recommend the appointment of an Adjutant General for all India and had taken the liberty to request that Colonel Thornton might be the person appointed to it.

3. I have received from him a general return of your army, but as I have not time now, before the departure of the ship, either to compare it by the particular returns I have received from the different brigades or to copy for the Council I must beg leave to defer sending it to you untill the departure of the next ship.

I have the honor to be with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

J. Clavering.

Calcutta,

4th December 1774.

XV

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Although you will receive an estimate of the resources and disbursements for the present year with the dispatches from the Public Department yet as this account has been drawn out with great accuracy, and I believe with equal fidelity, by the two accountants, and is a stronger illustration both of the diligence exerted by the late Administration for the retrieval of your affairs and of the efficacy of their measures than the most labored arguments, I beg leave to forward a copy of it with this address recommended to your particular attention. General Clavering has offered some objections to it which with my reply I have also the honor to enclose.

2. The different modes proposed by General Clavering and myself have been very largely discussed in the Consultations more perhaps than was necessary. I should have been better pleased that the Board had consented to pay off the principal debt of 1772 but I am contented with the reduction of the interest because I see it lead to the same end. *Both propositions amount to a proof that your finances in Bengal are not in that ruinous state which the gentlemen of the majority have labored to prove since the debt which has been accumulating for some years past is now in a course of liquidation.*

3. In my last I promised that I would myself undertake the vindication of Mr. Graham against the aspersions of the Ranny of Burdwan. I have waited for her reply to his and for the proof which she was called upon to produce in support of her allegations. She has at length delivered her reply but I believe I may venture to pronounce my judgement upon this composition, although it is before your notice, so far as to say that it contains no proofs of Mr. Graham's misconduct and that it admits of one fact which even in her labored relation of it is much to his honor.

4. As the Ranny has charged Mr. Graham with having been personally instrumental in depriving her of the authority which she held over the the Rajah's household and of the person of her son, and of having even treated and encouraged others to treat her with personal disrespect I judged it necessary to call upon Mr. Charles Stuart who was the Collector of Burdwan, at the time to which this transaction applies, for his declaration of the circumstances of it, the dispatches of both ships being closed when the Ranny's reply was received and Mr. Stuart on the point of departing on one of them. The copies of my letter to him and of his in reply will afford you the most satisfactory information upon this subject. I may not conceal from you that information of Mr. Graham's interference on this occasion were given me at the time by the Ranny and you may perceive by

Mr. Stuart's letter written to me on the occasion (which forms a part of the last mentioned enclosure) that I was not disposed to suffer a circumstance of that nature to pass without enquiry. I was satisfied both from Mr. Stuart's report and the explanation which Mr. Graham himself gave me of his conduct at Burdwan, exactly concurring with the former, that the Ranny's complaint was without foundation. The measures which took place at this time for the regulation of the Rajah's family were the issue of a tedious enquiry made in the government of Mr. Cartier, and the resolution of the Board passed at that time was no more than confirmed and carried into execution in April or May 1772. The proceedings of that period will shew that I was not on such terms of cordiality with Mr. Graham as to have yielded to his wishes in a point of such consequence from pure motives of compliance, if I can be supposed capable of so unworthy a motive. In truth it was in consequence of the Ranny's own representations and the disturbances which her intrigues had created in the district that I determined to put an effectual bar to her future hopes by proposing that the resolution of the preceding Council should be carried into force, and I myself took care to have this effectually accomplished. The Ranny has had better success with the present Administration, but I trust that your commands will put a more decisive conclusion to this unbecoming competition.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect
Honourable Sirs,

Your most obedient and
most faithful servant,
Warren Hastings.

Fort William,
23rd February 1774.

XVI

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors, etc.

Gentlemen,

1. By the *Pacific* and *Bute*, now under dispatch, you will receive a duplicate of the letter that I had the honor to address to you on the 9th January, sent by the *Dutton*.

2. It has been the object of my most assiduous application, since I arrived in Bengal, to make myself acquainted with your whole military establishment. In pursuance of this design I have made statements of each service separately, and other again of those conjointly acting in brigades, on war and on peace establishments without and within the provinces. A copy of these returns bound together for your use makes a number in the packet.

3. By this mode the numbers and expenses of these establishments appear in every point of view in which they can stand distinctly. The

index in the first page will direct to the return which may be required.

4. I have the honor to transmit to you a general return of the effectives on the Coast establishment for the month of November 1774.

5. That of this establishment I delivered to the Council on the 3rd instant, to be transmitted to you.

6. I have no return to send you yet from Bombay. I did myself the honor in my letter of 23rd September to inform you that I had written both to the Governor and Brigadier Gordon on the same day from Madras since which I have sent duplicates of those letters from hence. I am the more surprised that these letters should not be acknowledged as the Governor General and Council have received answers to those which notified our arrival here and our assuming the government.

7. Upon the Vizier's death the Governor General and Council thought it expedient that the third regiment with 2 battalions of sepoys, which are now stationed at Berhampore, should move up to Dinapore. It has been always usual for the troops, when they moved from one of those stations to the other to carry with them their artillery and stores; by the disposition that is now made of establishing magazines at each of those cantonments the brigades will find cannon and stores at their arrival and much expence will be saved by not dragging them always after them.

8. The situation of Chitpore, near to the town of Calcutta, where three battalions of sepoys are stationed, who do the duty of the Presidency, is so very unhealthy that necessity has obliged us to determine to remove the cantonment to a more healthy spot of ground.

9. The office of Commissary General becoming vacant by the departure of Mr. Maclean the Council unanimously agreed to appoint Lieutenant Colonel Dow to that employment. When it is considered what a great proportion of the expence of an army consists of those charges which are not on the establishment and which it is the duty of the Commissary General to comptroll we thought we could not be too carefull in the choice we made of the person who was to exercise so high a trust.

10. The Quarter Master General's office becoming likewise vacant by the promotion of Colonel Lesley to the command of a brigade I, by virtue of the power you have honored me with in your instructions, recommended Major Morgan to fill it, and I have no doubt, but the manner with which he will execute the duty of it will justify my recommendation of him.

11. By the returns of last month the number of men wanted to compleat the brigades on this establishment is 887 viz:

1st Brigade	(	Artillery.....	35	
	(	Regiment	260	
				295
2nd do.	(	Artillery.....	18	
	(	Regiment	373	
				391

3rd Brigade	(Artillery.....	13	
	(Regiment	188	
			201
			<hr/>
	Total		887
			<hr/>

I have the honor to be with great respect,
Gentlemen

Your most obedient and
most humble servant,

J. Clavering.

Calcutta,
26th February 1775.

XVII

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors, etc.

Gentlemen,

1. In my last of February 26th I had the honor to acquaint you that I had not received any answer to the letter I had written to the Governor and Commanding Officer at Bombay to notify my arrival in India, and to procure from Brigadier Gordon returns of the forces at that Presidency, with such reports of the state of the fortifications, etc., as he imagined would give me the fullest information concerning the military establishments of that settlement and all its dependencies.

2. By a letter which I have just received from Brigadier Gordon of the 17th January enclosing returns, of which the annexed are a copy no. 1, I am sorry to find that neither the original of that which I sent from Madrass nor the duplicate sent from hence had reached him. I am still, therefore, deprived of the means of imparting to you my ideas on the military establishment of that Presidency. But there are two subjects in the letter of Brigadier Gordon which appear to me to deserve your serious attention. The first that though he has your orders to be admitted into the Council there when all political and military affairs are under consideration yet he says that when the expedition against the fort of Salcette was undertaken he was neither consulted on the subject nor called to the Board when the list of stores etc., was made out for the service. He adds that it appeared, by the total want of proportion of the stores, that no military man had been consulted in the calculation. Not to have consulted with the Commanding Officer who was to take charge and execute the expedition, on the measures necessary to be taken to ensure its success and particularly in not allowing him at least to judge of the proper proportion of stores for the service, seems an evident impropriety even if your express commands had not been in force that Brigadier Gordon should have a seat at the Board when military subjects were to be considered. The other subject is on the

supercession of Lieutenant Colonel Cockburn in the command of the fort of Tannah by a gentleman who is Senior Merchant in your civil service, which command was to devolve in succession on three other gentlemen who are Factors and to a Writer. Brigadier Gordon says that having maturely considered the danger to which this new conquest might be exposed on account of its vicinity to Basseen, a very strong fortress on the bank of the river which surrounds the western side of the island of Salcette, and the facility with which the Marattas can cross over from one side to the other he had posted a considerable garrison in it and had given the command of it to Lieutenant Colonel Cockburn, an officer on whose abilities and experience he could have the most intire reliance. Seeing the importance of this place and the possibility of its being insulted [assaulted] it is difficult to account for the motives of the Select Committee in chusing to run the risque of losing the place, as they formerly did Mangalore¹, the command of which joined with another civil servant had been intrusted to the same gentleman who is now appointed Resident at Tannah.

3. From a careful examination of the account of the military expences of this establishment I have observed that the immensity of the expence has arisen less from the stated fixed charges than from those which are called extra contingencys and ordinance stores there never having been any proper officer or office to whom indents could be made for those contingencys or stores, or at least who could controll them, they were *furnished at discretion and the remains never accounted for*. In my letter of the 30th November I took the liberty of pointing out to you the irregularity with which the military stores have been both supplied and issued, I mean both ordinance stores and those others which are called contingent ones which were furnished hitherto by the paymasters of brigades and latterly by the Commissary General. I do not mean to impute blame to anybody for I do not think any body chargeable with it. The abuses I allude to have arisen either from the nature of a service being totally unknown to the Company's civil servants or that they wanted leisure to check and controll them; hence often indents were made for stores which could never be wanted, or for such as being of a mixed kind were deficient either in the proportion or the assortments. In short it was left to the discretion of the officers who indented to determine the quantity and quality of them; of the remains no body had an account. These indents which were made out by the Quarter Masters or Majors of brigade, and countersigned by the Commanding Officers, expressed in very general and indefinite terms the purposes to which they were to be applyed, and those indents were the only vouchers by which the Storekeeper General or the different Paymasters made up their accompts. Considering all these circumstances together, upon the information I have obtained, I am clearly of opinion that the direction, management and controll of all the ordinance stores in general and the power of making contracts for them should be vested in a board to be called a Board of Ordnance : that this Board should keep books

for each separate corps or magazine wherein they should be credited for every article separately that they receive upon their indents. The plan of this I delivered to the Council on the 13th March but the Board has not yet had time to examine it. I am sensible it is not free from errors but I hope they are such as may be rectified before or after its establishment. I have proposed that the Board shall consist of the Governor General, the Commander-in-Chief, of another member of the Council, of the Chief Engineer, of the Commanding Officer of Artillery, of the Commissary General, of the Commissary of Stores and of the Military Storekeeper without any salary : the expence to be incurred by it will be only a salary for a secretary and clerks and such conductors who are to take charge of the stores either in the field or in cantonments. In this plan I have subjoined regulations for separating the accompts of charge which are admitted on the establishment from those extra charges which are to be controlled by the Commissary General. By this method the Paymasters' accompts may be made up under one or other of those two heads, and by which the Honourable the Court of Directors will see the amount of the excess and how it accrues and may check it as they think proper. A copy of this plan waits on you, no. 2.

4. The expence of the fortifications at this Presidency have repeatedly incurred your censure, I have made some enquiries about the conduct of the works ; some regulations have been already made. The Commissary General, Colonel Dow, with much application and accuracy has controlled many of the current charges but much yet remains to be done to clear that business, as much as possible, from all collusion and fraud. The paper, no. 3, I delivered into the Council which if carried into effect may answer that purpose ; but such are the ingenious contrivances of fraud in this country that I believe that it is morally impossible to prevent them intirely. I had the honor to acquaint you, in my letter of the 30th November, that when Colonel Lillyman had orders to undertake the works that remained to be compleated the Board directed him to draw out a plan of the fortifications as they will appear when finished, another of the works in their actual state and a third of those works which were ordered to be compleated this year. So that by comparing the 2nd and 3rd together you will observe how much work has been done with the appropriated sum, and by comparing the 3rd and the 1st you will see what further remains to compleat the whole. I thought the subject could not be better illustrated to you than by this method.

I have the honour to remain with the greatest respect.

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient

and most humble servant,

J. Clavering.

Calcutta,
March 1775.

XVIII

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The gentlemen of the majority having thought themselves at liberty to make use of the advantage which the long detention of the *Anson* gave them after her dispatch of addressing a second packet to your Honourable Court by that ship, containing observations on my late address of the 25th of March. I shall now trouble you with my reply to such parts of that performance as appear to me to require it. Much of it consists in declamation and invective. These I shall pass without notice leaving them to make the full impression which I am sure will be to my advantage in the breasts of those whose opinions I solicit and whose judgement must decide between us.

I shall quote in a separate column the passages of the minutes of the majority to which I mean to reply, and insert my reply in the opposite column.

We leave it to the Court of Directors to make the comparison of their net receipts with the expectations given them by the increasing *jumna* of their *dewanny* lands. This year ending in April 1775 they were made to expect that the collections from these lands would amount to one crore ninety-two lacks fifty-two thousand five hundred and thirty-eight rupees.

We believe it will fall short near fifty lacks.

Every Provincial Council applies for large remissions of rents. We cannot as yet speak with certainty on the remission of balances, but we have some foundation to suppose that many of them may be improper. This is a point which requires investigation and from the magnitude of the sum becomes an interesting object to the Company.

The gross amount of the revenue as settled for the Bengal year 1180, being the year ending in April 1774, was rupees.....	1,86,43,846.
The charges being originally reckoned at.....	20,29,755
The neat amount was.....	1,66,14,091.
The amount actually received in Calcutta was	1,34,48,354.

The difference is certainly considerable but not more so than you had reason to expect from the repeated explanations given to your Honourable Council by the late Administration; and I doubt not you are satisfied they could not wish to deceive you, neither their interest nor credit were likely to gain by such a deception.

The abstract of the net revenue from the commencement of the grant of the *dewanny*, enclosed in my letter of the 22nd of February, will best shew how much the majority's

representation of deficiencies is exaggerated. I will not tire you with repetitions.

With respect to the year 1181, which is just elapsed, as the accounts are not yet adjusted I will only observe that the majority have taken pains to make them appear unfavourable by ordering them to be closed on the very day of the expiration of the year instead of being kept open for a few weeks as usual for the recovery of balances, although this measure will probably be productive of an actual instead of an apparent loss.

Mr. Hastings has often upbraided us with our interference with his prerogative of appointing to vacancies in the Provincial Councils. We will not disavow the part we have taken in the settlement of the late appointments. Far from retracting the principles which have directed our conduct in this respect every day's experience evinces the necessity there was of our endeavouring to break the formidable combination of reciprocal interest which the Governor had established in this settlement by accepting unwarrantable advantages himself and conniving at those which were received by the Company's servants.

The practices which have since been discovered in the administration of the Company's revenue did not immediately, upon our arrival, come before us with that degree of evidence on which we could entirely depend. We thought, however, we could scarcely be imposed upon by giving some credit to the reports voluntarily made to us by such persons as had either courage to declare themselves openly against

Had the majority been as ingenuous in avowing their total disregard of my recommendations and assigning their real motives for it when the arrangements of the Provincial Councils were formed, or in their explanation of this transaction in their letter to your Honorable Court of the 11th of January, I should have spared myself and you the trouble of more than one long remonstrance against it.

To talk of persons having the *courage* to declare themselves openly against the late Administration is an insult on my situation. The fact is that it requires courage in any man not to do it, it being universally believed that the surest means to obtain the friendship and support of a fixed majority of the Council, who have the whole power of the government in their hands, is to lodge accusations against the late Administration, and to refuse it the surest means of incurring their resentment. The many reports which I have received of *promises and threats used by the instruments of the majority, particularly by Nundcomar, to obtain*

the abuses of the late Administration or privately to make known the true state of the Government, especially as we found those reports coinciding with and confirmed by the public discourses and opinions of the whole settlement. These, we assure the Court of Directors, are not confined to the Governor General.

accusations against me would afford you matter of astonishment if they could be related with safety to the persons who reported them. How much such accusations are the grand object of the majority in their invariable pursuit, which they profess of the Company's interest I leave you, Honourable Sirs, to judge from the following instance.

On Wednesday the 19th of April Mr. Fowke and Nundcomar were accused before the Supreme Court of a conspiracy against me and others, by making a man against his will write a false petition injurious to our characters and sign an account of bribes pretended to be given to us.

On Thursday the 20th an examination was made before the Judges which lasted from 11 in the morning untill eleven at night, and the circumstances appeared so well attested that there was thought to be reason sufficient for binding over the accused to take their trials at the Assizes. The very next evening General Clavering, Colonel Monson and Mr. Francis accompanied by Mr. Fowke and others went to Nundcomar's house on a formal visit to him, an honor which he had never before received either from those gentlemen or from any former administration. From the season which was now chosen for making it and from the manner in which it was made it had every appearance of a determined resolution to support him against the proceedings of the court of justice and a too obvious tendency to deter the witnesses from appearing on the day of trial against him. From every account which you, gentlemen, will

have heard of the nature of the inhabitants of this country you will rather wonder, I imagine, that more atrocious crimes have not been laid to my charge than be surprized that I have not escaped unacused. "The formidable combination of reciprocal interest" seems to imply that I had a private interest with the members of the Provincial Councils which even the late Act of Parliament would not be sufficient to set aside. If I approved of such a mode of arguing I might, with equal reason, insinuate that they have a private interest with the gentlemen of their appointment, but I disclaim such unwarrantable conclusions believing that their sole immediate object is to work my overthrow, whatever their remote views may be.

Maha Rajah Nundcomar whom the Governor calls a *misercant*, we found, had, a very little time before, been his bosom friend, consulted on all occasions and supported by him against the united protests of Messrs. Graham, Lawrell and Dacres who were closely connected with Mahomed Reza Cawn, although the Governor knew him to have been (as he now says) guilty of a forgery. We have reason to suspect that the intention was to make him *baniun* to General Clavering, to surround the General and us with the Governor's creatures and to keep us totally unacquainted with the real state of the country. By this and other flimsy devices, so consonant to the principles of the Asiatic government in which the Governor General has been so long exercised, he probably flattered himself that men unpracticed in such arts might be perplexed and circumvented.

At the time of Rajah Goordass's appointment I did not know of the forgery alluded to¹ but my opinion of the infamous character of Nundcomar has never varied. I avowed it even at the time in which I afforded him my greatest support, and you, gentlemen, are well acquainted with the sole motive which induced me to shew him any attention and to recommend his son to fill the high station which he now holds. He never had my confidence.

I cannot even conjecture the reason which the gentlemen of the majority say they have to suspect that it was my intention to make Nundcomar *baniun* to General Clavering. Neither my behavior to Nundcomar at the time of the General's arrival nor his to me betrayed any token of such an intention, it being at that time the current reports, and I believe true, that Nundcomar had sent down a long

list of charges which he had forged against me to the General, and that Mr. Fowke was the bearer of it; and you, gentlemen, are in possession of a strong presumptive proof of the improbability of my conceiving a project of so pernicious a tendency to myself in my letter, addressed to your Honorable Court, of the 24th March 1774.

Whatever might have been his motives his discoveries have thrown a clear light upon the Honourable Governor General's conduct and the means he has taken of making the very large fortune, he is said to possess, of upwards of forty lacks of rupees which he must have amassed in two years and a half.

Such inconsiderable presents as the Governor General says Mr. Graham received could never have created the immoderate fortune he is known to possess, at least to have accomplished it they must have been very frequently repeated.

The amount of my fortune shall be faithfully declared to your Honorable Court whenever you may think proper to express a desire of knowing it. It will afford you a strong proof how greatly the informations of the majority differ from fact.

As I am totally unacquainted with the amount of Mr. Graham's fortune I know not on what foundation the majority style it *immoderate*.

I thought it incumbent on me to vindicate him from the calumnies of the Burdwan Ranny, and I mentioned my reasons for doing so but else it does not belong to me on every occasion to undertake that gentleman's defence. He will answer for himself. I will only say that I have ever regarded him as a valuable servant to the Company.

I must here remark that the majority throughout their minutes argue as if I was to be responsible for the conduct of every member of the late Administration and of every gentleman in the Company's service, as if I encouraged or connived at every species of emolument and that all were totally dishonorable. That the emoluments of the Company's servants have been reduced in my administration, and the advantages of the Company encreased, is

a fact universally known, some may have remained which I thought it right to wink at, others which it was not in my power to prevent and others with which I was unacquainted. Suppose a person to be Resident of a district from which the provision of salt used to yield him a profit of a lack of rupees a year. Suppose his unavoidable expences in that station to be fifteen or twenty thousand rupees a year and his allowance (which I had not the power of increasing) to be fifteen or twenty hundred, if under such circumstances I took the provision of salt into the hands of the Company so as to produce them a new revenue in that district, of 80,000 rupees a year, I confess I should not scruple to have winked at the Resident's being the contractor for it on terms which would yield him a profit of 20,000 rupees. If it be argued that such emoluments are liable to abuses, that it would have been better the servants should have public allowances adequate to their stations and no secret profits I heartily agree that this is a more eligible system, but your Honorable Court well knows I had not the power of establishing it. Suppose again that any person had benefited himself by a mode which I disapproved and that intimation of it had been given to me, if I was convinced that this person would have been patronized by a majority of the Council, that in consequence I could not have brought it to a proof and that the ill humour arising from the attempt would have prevented me from obtaining for the Company more material advantages, I say supposing such a circumstance had occurred,

I confess I should have been satisfied to put a stop to such benefit in future*without attempting to prosecute an enquiry and bring the offender to punishment. I should have considered it as a necessary sacrifice to the constitution of this Government, in which my influence entirely depended on being supported by a majority of votes and in which it was most materially requisite to the welfare of the Company's affairs to avoid every source of unprofitable dissension. To extricate them from the difficulties in which they were involved and to provide for their permanent prosperity have been my constant objects. It rests with your Honorable Court to determine how far the means which I have employed were allowable and my endeavours successful.

We beg leave to observe that we have not dispossessed Luck Naut Nundee, the son of the Governor's *banyan*, of his zemindary, as the Governor General is pleased to assert, nor have we as yet ordered the Governor General to be prosecuted.

My assertion that the majority had dispossessed Luck Naut Nundee of his zemindary and that they had ordered a prosecution to be commenced against me was founded on the following resolutions of the majority passed in separate meetings held by them in my absence. You, gentlemen, will judge how far I had reason for my assertions and they to contradict them.

Extract of the Consultation of
the Revenue Department, . . the . . of
1775.

[N.B. This blank was left for the minute which I supposed to contain the resolution for dispossessing Luck Naut of his zemindary. I cannot find such a resolution on the proceedings nor at this time trace the cause which led me to pass the conclusion which I did on the intentions of the majority. The mistake is of no consequence either to them or to me. It certainly is one.]

Extract of the Secret Department
Consultation 13 March 1775.

“ORDERED that the Proceedings of the Board, and all the papers

relative to Maha Rajah Nundcomar's charge against the Governor General be delivered to the Company's Attorney that he may lay them before Council for their Opinion how to proceed in recovering for the Company's use, the several Sums of Money which the Governor General has received from Maharajah Nundcomar or Munny Begum, for services done them through his Influence."

Extract of the Revenue Consultation the 14th March 1775.

"ORDERED that the Secretary to prepare Copies of their proceedings and the several papers belonging to them to be delivered to the Company's Attorney that he may lay them before Council for their Opinion how to proceed in recovering the Money that may be due to the Company, with the Copy of the Ranny's Letter of the 10th of March and Enclosures."

With respect to the zemindary abovementioned Cantoo Baboo himself informed the Board that it was really granted to his son, and that if the youth should die the zemindary would lapse to the Government. In this instance the opinion of the Governor and the *bavian* appears directly contradictory to each other.

I have already said that it is the custom of the Gentoos to procure the names of their sons to be inserted instead of their own in grants and other legal acts which concern them. There are gentlemen of your honorable body who from their own experience may know this to be a fact. I believe that your ancient records, if it were necessary to search them for proofs of so unimportant a truth, would prove that it was the practice even of many of your former *dadny* merchants to engage the names of their sons instead of their own in their *dadny* contracts, although their duration was but for a year.

In the meantime it must naturally occur to the Court of Directors that farms, to the annual amount of

I have declared that most of Cantoo Baboo's farms were taken without my knowledge, and almost

thirteen lacks and a half, Could not have been heaped upon the Governor's confidential * servant entirely for his own profit, especially as it is one of the public regulations of the Committee of Circuit that no person shall hold farms to the amount of more than one lack.

In the late proceedings of the Revenue Board it will appear that there is no species of speculation from which the Governor General has thought it reasonable to abstain. We believe the proofs of his appropriating four parts in seven of the salary with which the Company is charged for the *Phouzdar* of Houghly, are such as, whether sufficient or not to convict him in a court of justice, will not leave the shadow of a doubt concerning his guilt in the mind of any unprejudiced person. The salary is 72,000 rupees a year, the Governor takes 36,000 and allows Cantoo Baboo 4,000 more for the trouble he submits to in conducting the negotiation with the *Phouzdar*. This also is the common subject of conversation and derision through the whole settlement. It is our firm opinion and belief that the late *Phouzdar* of Houghly, a relation of Mahomed Reza Cawn, was turned out of his office merely because his terms were not so favourable as those which the Honourable Governor General has

all without my advice. It is now assumed that these could not have been heaped upon him entirely for his own profit. With the like spirit and tendency great pains have been taken to discover that he or some of his family are engaged in the Company's commercial contracts. I understand that the conclusion on both points is that I participate in the profits arising from his farms and contracts. I leave my adversaries to bring proofs of the suggestion declaring my belief that such a participation would have been as opposite to my interests as I know it to be repugnant to my principles.

I have already declared, in my letter by the *Anson*, that it was my intention to submit all my transactions of whatsoever nature to your justice in any way and from that you should prescribe, but that I thought it improper to enter on such a defence while the issue of the prosecutions at law, with which I have been threatened and which I still understand are forming against me, shall be depending.

I will not suffer myself, therefore, to be drawn from this resolution for the sake of a partial refutation of any charges of this kind. Yet I cannot avoid noticing the unfair way in which they are employed against me especially in this particular instance. A man unknown, avowedly influenced by interested considerations, stands forth as my accuser. To prove his accusation two evidences are called upon who directly contradict each other. The majority declare their belief in the charge, and the proofs are ultimately left to depend on my not disproving it.

obtained from the present *Phouzdar*.

By such means employed, under the influence of power and the known prejudice of those who possess it, the fairest character may be blackened by the most criminal imputations.

I now again recur to the declaration which I have before made, and repeat that it is my fixed determination to carry it literally into execution and most fully and liberally to explain every circumstance of my conduct on the points on which I have been so injuriously arraigned, not doubting to afford you the clearest conviction both of my own integrity and of the propriety of my motives for declining a present defence of it.

Besides every other instance Mr. Barwell has avowed the appropriation of a portion of the profits of two of the most considerable salt farms in that district of which he was Chief to his own emolument and that of the factory. He even prosecutes the farmer for the balance of an account between them, the whole of which amounts to no less than rupees 1,25,500, and swears to the debt in order to recover it for himself, etc.

I have not yet read the proceedings of the Committee of Coja Kawork's accusations of Mr. Barwell, neither do I think it necessary as they are to undergo your final inspection and judgement upon them. Mr. Barwell does not stand in need of my aid for his defence, and from the general knowledge which I have of the subject I have no doubt, however, my inclination may lead me to suspect the bias of my opinion in his favor, that he will acquit himself of it to his credit and your satisfaction.

2. I am not a little surprized to find the publick opinion of the inhabitants of this settlement quoted in support of the sentiments which the majority have professed to entertain of my conduct because I have been made to believe that the voice of the publick was every way, as much in Bengal as in England, entirely in my favor. I must now beg leave to submit my cause to this criterion. It is in your power, Honorable Sirs, to obtain it. There are many men in England, of unquestioned knowledge and integrity, who have been eye witnesses of all the transactions of this Government in the short interval in which I had the chief direction of it. There are many hundreds in England who correspondents in Bengal from whom they have received successive advices of those transactions and

opinions of the authors of them. I solemnly make my appeal to these concurring testimonies, and if in justice to my own reputation, in justice to the service and in justice to your Honorable Court, by whom I was chosen for the high station which I have lately filled, by whom my conduct has been applauded and through whom I have obtained the distinguished honor assigned me by the Legislature itself in my nomination to fill the first place in the new administration of India, I may be allowed the liberty of making so uncommon a request I do most earnestly entreat that you will be pleased to call upon those who from their own knowledge, or the communications of others, can contribute such informations, to declare severally the opinions which they have entertained of the measures of my administration, the tenor of my conduct in every department of this government and the effect which it has produced both in conciliating the minds of the natives to the British Government, in confirming your authority over the country and in advancing your interest in it. From these and the testimonies of your own records let me be judged, not from the malevolent declamations of those who having no services of their own to plead can only found their reputation on the destruction of mine.

3. In the proceedings of the 17th of April in the Secret Department you will find a comparative account of the debts of this government on the 13th April 1772, when I took charge of it, and on the 31st January 1775. This account, however, cannot give you a just idea of the state of the Company's affairs because it shews only their debts and not their assets. I also object to the article it contains of rupees 39,98,133-5-3 as the balance of the King's stipend because I have repeatedly declared my opinion that the King's stipend should not be paid.

4. I now transmit you statements of your quick and dead stock on the 13th of April 1772 and on the 31st of January 1775, with a comparative abstract of these statements, and an account of the balance in your treasuries made up to the 30th of last month. The former shew the Company to be above two crores of rupees richer in Bengal on the 31st of January 1775 than on the 13th of April 1772; and by the latter you will find that you have actually this time above a crore of rupees in your general and provincial treasuries exclusive of the balance in your commercial treasuries, which amount to above nine lacks more.

5. The gentlemen of the majority have been pleased to assert that I have suffered the publick revenues to be appropriated to the emolument of individuals, that I have accepted unwarrantable advantages myself and connived at those which were received by the Company's servants, that there is no species of speculation from which I have thought it reasonable to abstain. In short the world must conclude from this style of their letters that my whole attention has been employed in enriching myself and my friends, and that by my interested conduct I have brought the Company to a state of bankruptcy. I flatter myself that these statements

and this account of the actual balances in your treasuries will fully evince the injustice of such assertions.

Fort William,
16th May 1775.

I have the honor to be
Honorable Sirs,
Your most faithful and
most obedient humble servant,
Warren Hastings.

XIX

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors, etc.

Gentlemen,

1. The establishment of the Board of Ordnance, of which I gave you an account in the letter I had the honor to write to you on the 2nd of March, assembled for the first time in the Fort on the 8th April. It was then agreed, it should meet regularly every Saturday, the only day excepting Sunday which the members of your Government have not appropriated to publick business.

2. The examination of military contracts for supplying the Fort with materials, and the inspecting the Engineer's report of the works carrying on there, and the weekly accompts of them are likewise given in charge to this Board.

3. The comptroll which is established in this Board upon all military expenditures will, I flatter myself, demonstrate the utility of its institution. All military indents must pass through it before they are complied with whether they be from the magazines on the Storekeeper General, or from the brigades or separate corps on the magazines, whether they be for those stores supplied formerly by the Paymasters and by the late Commissary General and now by the Commissarys of Musters, which have at all times formed so heavy an article in your military expence, they must now undergo a strict examination by this Board. Not content with this restriction they have ordered tables of the rates of such articles as are supplied by those Commissaries to be made out, according to their usual prices in each district where the troops are usually stationed, with a view that the Commissaries shall furnish the supplies either by contract according to such rates or that they shall charge the Company no more in their bills for them than the amount of them; and as all bills of charges will be henceforward made up separately, viz., on the establishment the table of rates will more easily enable the Commissary General to comptroll the army accompts, which are now audited by Colonel Dow with the greatest integrity, assiduity and intelligence.

4. The answer to the letter which I have so frequently mentioned that I wrote on 23rd September to Brigadier General Gordon at Bombay is just arrived, but the enclosures that he sent me are so very valuminous

that it has not been possible for me to inspect them or to form my judgment on their contents.

5. They relate I find to the differences which have arisen between the Select Committee and him relative to the interpretation of your military instructions, and the preference which has been given to Lieutenant Colonel Keating to command the troops on the expedition to Surat to the prejudice of several officers his seniors.

6. Brigadier Gordon acquainted me that having experienced so many mortifications from the Governor and Select Committee, he has been compelled to take the resolution of having recourse to the last resort of an injured man, that of quitting your service. He proposed to embark in one of the China ships to return to your presence to lay his complaints before you. Colonel Egerton in consequence of Brigadier Gordon's departure succeeds to the command. He has desired me to submit his pretensions to you and to request that you would be pleased to confirm him in the command in case it is not your pleasure that Brigadier Gordon should reassume it.

7. Whatever may be your decision on that head I would beg leave to recommend to you to grant, to whomsoever you invest with that command, such effectual powers of deliberation and decision as may prevent for the future your service suffering there, either, on the one hand, by mean compliances on the part of the commander, or on the other, by being placed in such a situation as to be compelled to relinquish the service, the duties of which he cannot fulfill with honor and dignity to himself, or duty to the Company.

8. I see by the general return of the Honourable the Company's troops at the Presidency of Bombay dated the 25th of February which I have not time to copy on account of the immediate departure of the packet, that there have been sent on the expedition to S[urat] artillery 79, infantry 351, sepoy 801 and that there was remaining in the place artillery 89, infantry 389, sepoy 966.

9. It appears to me that the number sent are very inadequate to the service on which they are employed to procure any great or real advantage, and likewise that the number left are equally inadequate for the defence and security of Bombay in case it should be insulted [assaulted].

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and
most humble servant,

J. Clavering.

Calcutta,
17th May 1775.

XX

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors of the Honorable United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. You will be informed by the General Letter from the Secret Department of the decree passed by the majority, on the 9th instant, for dismissing Munny Begum from her office of guardian to the Nabob and from the charge of his household and for conferring those trusts on Rajah Goordass, the son of Mahraja Nundcomar.

2. A revolution so sudden, so extraordinary and so important in all its consequences required the most wary circumspection in those who projected it and the most assured conviction both of its justice and necessity before they carried it into execution. It will naturally be concluded that they proceeded on some proofs of strong presumption that the Begum had dissipated or embezzled the Nabob's estate, grossly neglected his education or engaged in projects which might injure the peace of the country, the Company's interests or their connection with the Nabob or at least that she had been concerned in disputes with their government or encroachments on their *dewanny* privileges. You will expect that in the proceedings against the Begum the strictest regard will have been paid to her honor, and every scrupulous attention observed which the delicacy of the oriental manners prescribe with respect to her sex and her rank and character particularly demand; and that in the choice of her successor due consideration has been paid to the requisites for so distinguished a charge. That his rank is such as at least may not wound the Nabob's honor or lessen his credit in the estimation of the people by the magisterial command which the new guardian must exercise over him, with abilities and vigour of mind equal to the support of that authority; and the world will expect that the guardian be especially qualified by his own acquired endowments to discharge the duties of that relation in the education of his young pupil, to inspire him with sentiments suitable to the dignity of his birth and to instruct him in the principles of his religion.

3. How far these points have been attended to by the majority in this transaction will best appear from the following authentic detail of it.

4. On the 2nd instant General Clavering reported to the Board that Mr. James Grant¹ had obtained possession of the accounts of the Nabob's household for eight years past and had brought them to Calcutta with the person from whom he received them for the purpose of depositing them in the hands of government, thinking them of great importance to the Company's interest.

5. Mr. James Grant was called before the Board with his informant Noonit Roy and delivered a parcel of papers containing accounts written

in the Persian language which they said were the accounts of the *Nizamut* and would prove that Munny Begum on her appointment to the management of the Nabob's household had overcharged nine lacks sixty thousand and odd rupees in the arrears then due to that office. This is the sum of the information given by Mr. Grant and Noonit Roy and was not obtained from them without great difficulty and many repeated interrogatories. Their examination merits your attention.

6. On the 5th Mr. Grant was again called before the Board and explained the above charge in the following words. "I venture to say that from the accounts in my possession and the other corroborating circumstances, the Sum of Nine Lacks and Sixty seven Thousand Rupees and odd could be proved to be due from the Household on account of the advance of the Twenty Lack twenty five thousand and fifty two Rupees paid for the Arrears"; that is as I suppose, for I do not think he has yet made his meaning sufficiently apparent; of 20,25,052 rupees which were paid her in account by the Company for the Nabob's stipend the Begum had disbursed no more than 10,48,000 and had defrauded either the servants of the household or the Nabob of the remainder.

7. To prove this Mr. Grant proposed that he might have authority granted him, assisted by Noonit Roy, to examine all the accounts and officers of the *Nizamut*.

8. On the 9th Mr. Grant produced an English abstract of the same account and expressed a doubt whether a further sum of 2,69,563-15 would not appear on investigation to have been unaccounted for by the Begum.

9. On these grounds the following motions were immediately made and carried by the majority.

Motion by General Clavering

"I move that a Gentleman of proper Rank in the Service be appointed to go to the City to acquaint the Nabob and the Begum with the Information that has been given to the Board and to demand of her an order to the proper Officers to deliver over to him the *Nizamut*, the *Bhatta* and the Consumary Accounts from the Middle of April in the year 1764 to the middle of August 1772 and that the intentions of Government of investigating these Accounts may be effectually carried into Execution that the Begum be divested of the Office of Guardian to the Nabob, that her influence over the Officers of the Household may not prevent them from giving true Evidence when called upon for any explanation of the above Accounts, and that he do also demand of her the Accounts from that time to the latest period of the year 1181 to which they can be closed."

Mr. Francis's motion

"I move that Mr. Goring be appointed to repair to the City to execute the preceding resolution of the Board and to deliver over the Accounts to Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Grant, that these Gentlemen be appointed to examine them and to report to the Board what Balance

appears by the Accounts to be due to the Nabob or remains unaccounted for by the Begum, with such other observations as they may think material for the Information of the Board, that they be allowed such a number of Mohins^a as they may deem necessary, to assist them in the examination of the Accounts. and that Noonit Roy may be appointed Chief of the Mohins."

Mr. Monson's motion

"I move that the Nabob's Person and Household be delivered to the care of the present Duan Rajah Goordass until further Orders."

10. To these resolutions I objected and protested against the first and the last.

11. The next day Mr. Goring applied to the Board for an authority to remove Munny Begum from the Kella, or the Nabob's palace, to a house formerly belonging to the Nabob Meer Jaffier which is situated at a considerable distance from it in the city, and to separate from her councils such "persons as he should find endeavoring to throw obstacles in the way of his Enquiries, and, either to send them to Calcutta or keep them in Confinement until his researches were completed."

12. To these propositions the Board agreed, I objected and protested.

13. Thus on a vague unsupported charge, which even if proved as to the fact will require other proofs to fix upon it the charge of criminality, Munny Begum the first woman^a of these provinces has been dismissed from the offices which she held by a solemn act of your Government confirmed by your fullest approbation, and is now exposed to be ignominiously excluded from her house and the protection of her family at the direction of Mr. Goring who has never yet afforded proof either of that judgement or integrity which could qualify him for so uncommon a trust; and the Nabob's person, household and education committed to the charge of Rajah Goordass, who was lately her servant, a young man of mean abilities, a gentoo and the son of Maharajah Nundcomar.

14. Whatever ostensible color may be given to this violent measure it is evidently connected with the object which has been invariably pursued by the majority of eradicating my authority; and so well calculated to support the influence of their creature Nundcomar and deter witnesses from appearing against him that I make no scruple to assert my belief that these are the real motives of the disgrace of Munny Begum and the unmerited elevation of Raja Goordass.

15. It is unnecessary to offer proofs at this time of the determined design of the majority to destroy my authority. Nothing was wanting to complete it but to repeal the first measure of my government which was understood to have taken place under your express authority and was conspicuous to the view of all the inhabitants of the two provinces.

16. For the last motive assigned to this transaction I appeal to the whole tenor of the publick conduct observed by these gentlemen towards Nundcomar.

17. They never afforded him the slightest countenance untill he became my ostensible accuser, from that time he has possessed every external mark of favor.

18. On the 19th of April Nundcomar was examined by the Judges of the Supreme Court on a charge of a conspiracy against myself and others, the principal members of your present and late Administration, and the Judges declared there was matter sufficient for a prosecution. On the day following the gentlemen of the majority honored Nundcomar with a public visit. Their motive for this cannot be misunderstood and could be no other than that of sustaining the credit of Nundcomar against the effects of a criminal arraignment thereby proclaiming the patronage and support of him at a season and on occasion in which of all others it will be generally thought that they ought to have avoided every appearance of a connection with him.

19. On the 6th of this month Nundcomar was committed to jail in order to undergo a trial at the next assizes for a charge of forgery which was exhibited against him by Mohun Pursaud a merchant of this settlement. On the 9th the gentlemen of the majority passed the act already mentioned in favor of his son which elevated him to a rank scarcely inferior to the sovereignty of these provinces.

20. For further proofs of their attachment to Nundcomar, of the temper with which they have endeavoured to support him and even to contest the powers of Judicature in his favor I beg leave to refer to the Consultations of the 20th and 24th of April and the 8th of May in the Secret Department, the postscript to the General Letter from that department and the enclosures to which it alludes.

21. I must observe that the postscript was drawn up by General Clavering and contains a declaration of facts which do not appear upon record, neither did I ever hear of them until I read them in that performance. From whomsoever the General received his information the facts ought certainly to have been previously made known to the Board and established before they were made to declare them as authentic truths in an address to your Honorable Court.

22. My adversaries have placed me in a situation peculiarly difficult and delicate. They have made me the butt of unceasing persecution for these seven months past and have called down the whole host of informers from every quarter of Bengal against me. Yet when I have endeavoured to bring to justice men charged with a conspiracy to ruin my fortune and blast my character with forged and libellous accusations the same charge is retorted upon myself by the gentlemen of the majority, although in all their most violent attacks upon me they have made professions of the deepest concern for the honor of the Governor General and the prosecution

of Raja Nundcomar and others for a conspiracy is reprecis's minute of sented by them as having "a Tendency (which in this ye 24th April Arrangement can only mean a Design or Intention) to prevent or deter him from proceeding in making good those discoveries

Honourable Sirs,

1. I have intruded much upon your patience and feel the strongest repugnance to make myself the object of so many repeated references to your Honourable Court but it is no [] act; and as my cause, in whatever light it may be viewed, is intimately connected with that of the public I beg you will afford me your attention once more for the last time of this season on the [] of the enclosed papers. These contain a copy of the proceedings of the Council held yesterday in the Revenue Department. I most earnestly recommend them to your attentive perusal and consideration. I shall make no other comment upon them but to observe that they contain in the transactions of one day three most striking instances of the unwarrantable measures that are pursued by the gentlemen of the majority to excite accusations and evidences against me. Ramkishen is rewarded with the farm of Rajeshahee, in violation of the rights of the farmer held under the faith of Government, and with the presumptive inheritance of the zemindarry of Rajeshahee, in violation of the rights of the lineal heirs, for having been the instrument of preferring accusations against me to the Board.

2. His *dewan* Nundololl is dismissed from his office for having refused to join in the accusations.

3. The *Fouzdar* of Hugley called upon to give evidence on another accusation brought against me by a man of the name of Zeinal-ob-deen declining to take an oath which was expressly left to his option is dismissed from his office on the pretext of contempt, but too evidently for having disappointed the expectations of the majority that he would declare himself my accuser.

4. While such rewards are thus publicly held out for those who will offer themselves as my accusers and such punishments denounced against those who refuse to be the instruments of so wicked a policy you are not to be surprized, Honourable Sirs, at the effects. Such arts supersede even the necessity of subordination since every man judges for himself of the expectations which are formed by the authors of them and will need no tutor when called upon to give testimony accordingly.

5. Rewards and punishments in the hands of good men in power are the most useful instruments for producing great and virtuous purposes: when employed by a wicked administration they serve equally the ends of malice, private persecution and oppression. Even in Europe where the people are not accustomed to pay the most blind obedience to power these means seldom fail of their effect; but in this country where the Asiatic manners lead to the most abject submission to authority few men can withstand their force.

6. The conclusion which has been drawn by my adversaries that because a man called to give evidence against me declined taking his oath the charge is, therefore, proved is suitable to the rest of their conduct, the opposite to every principle of justice. I thank God that they are

not my judges. It was the wisdom of Parliament that constituted the Court of Judicature at so seasonable a time, to check the despotism of the new Council and I look forward with confidence and cheerfulness to the justice of your Honourable Court and those to whom my cause may come in its ultimate appeal for my future relief whatever evil may fill the long interval which must precede it.

7. With this dispatch I have the honor to transmit you a minute with a letter accompanying it from Mr. Barwell desiring me to forward it with my dispatch to your Honourable Court.

I am with the greatest respect,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most obedient and
most humble servant
Warren Hastings.

Fort William,
20th May 1775.

XXII

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors, etc.

Gentlemen,

As in my letter of the 16th May I did myself the honor to acquaint you that Brigadier Gordon had determined to lay down the command of your troops at Bombay and to return to Europe by the China ships it is with pleasure I can now inform you that he has altered that resolution, and proposes to remain in India till your justice shall have decided between him and his opponents. His motives for this determination seem to him so just and, at the same time, so honorable that he hopes that you cannot but approve them. He alledges that his late appointment to the command had occasioned much trouble both to you, gentlemen, and to his friends in England. That the Presidency of Bombay is now engaged in a war with Marrattas and that there is a chance that the possible events of it may again dispose the President and Council to employ him in the field, where he has had always the good fortune to do honor to your arms. His grievances are briefly that he is virtually divested of the command of troops, notwithstanding that your late instructions were formed expressly to prevent disputes between the Governor and the Commander-in-Chief wherein separate and definitive powers are given to each. He considers that you certainly meant to furnish him with the means of preserving the troops in good discipline when you assigned to him a distinct authority, otherwise he might be responsible with his honor and incur the loss of your favor without any blame or fault of which he might be guilty.

He represents that he has not the power either of giving orders or enforcing them but that, on the contrary, that orders are given and often

without being previously communicated to him carried into execution contrary to his advice and representation. Of the truth of these assertions he produces many instances both at the Presidency and at the subordinates. He further acquaints me that, being desirous of taking the field at the head of your troops he had made a tender of his services but that under pretence of his having applied to resign and to go home by the first ships his offer was refused and the command of your army, which has joined Ragaunaut Row, given to Colonel Keating both to his and Colonel Egerton's prejudice, as being likewise as well as himself his superior officer. What were the inducements of the President and Council for shewing this preference to Colonel Keating it would be presumption in me to penetrate, but it is certain that when Brigadier Gordon's long, faithfull and meritorious services are considered, as well as the honorable manner with which he was appointed by you to fill the station he occupies, it was impossible to inflict a greater mortification upon him than to supersede him by the same officer whom the President and Council have themselves acknowledged had invidiously traduced the Brigadier's character before your Honorable Court. He further says that the Governor not being satisfied with depriving him of his executive authority, he had not thought proper to avail himself of his opinion and advice in the deliberative measures of the Council on military affairs. The expedition against Salcette was concerted in Council and the preparations made for it without consulting the Brigadier though he was to command it.

2. As I have not received any letters from Colonel Keating himself I have it not in my power to send you such an accurate account of the operations of his army as I could wish. I neither know the exact place where he landed at Cambay nor the objects of his first movements. It appears, however, from such advices as I have had that he waited all the month of March and part of the month of April for reinforcements after he had entered that country. Being joined by those which he expected from Bombay and by the adherents of Ragowbow he pursued the enemy cross the river Sabramatti to the northward; an action happened the 28th of April, Hurry Purdit', who commands the Marratta army, retired towards Amadavad to a fort called Keriah where, it was supposed, some treasure was lodged. A cannonade again ensued here on the 2nd May but it seems as if Colonel Keating, despairing to take the place, had resolved on the 4th to retire and recross the Sabramatti with a view afterwards to pass the river Mahe to arrive in the neighbourhood of Broach before the rainy season set in. In this march his army was much harrassed by the enemy's horse, and provisions were scarce in his camp. Before he reached the Mahe and on the 18th May he was attacked by the enemy; the particulars we have of this action are from Colonel Keating himself transmitted to us by the President and Council of Bombay. For the relation of this action I must beg leave to refer you to our Consultations. The loss he there sustained, together with sickness which began to prevail in his camp, I am afraid, will greatly distress him and cramp his

operations. It appears that after this action he prepared to pass the Mahe immediately, whether to proceed to Broach or not is not said. The letter indeed from the President and Council which we received with this account mentions that Colonel Keating is on his march towards Poonah, but I should imagine Colonel Keating will be very well satisfied if he can secure safe quarters for his troops untill the rains are over and that he will attempt nothing more than to reach Broach if that can be effected.

3. By a letter that I have received from Brigadier Gordon, of the 10th June, I am informed that the Marrattas to the number of 3000 men had passed over from Bassein to Salcette on the 6th of that month and had dislodged a post of a subaltern and 60 men who had defended themselves very well; they then attacked ano her post where a captain commanded and where they were beat off with loss. Upon a reinforcement coming from Bombay they retired again to Bassein.

4. From the Coast I have obtained very authentic advices of the force of Hyder Alli from a person who is lately come from him at Seringapatnam and to whom Hyder took pleasure to shew his troops. The numbers of the horse from 20 to 25,000, eight thousand of these of his own stables and mounted with excellent men. He had in the field 20 battalions of sepoys consisting of 8,9,10,11,12, and 13 companys each well armed and appointed, 700 black artillery men, 114 Europeans, 6,000 rocket men, 5000 camels, 200 elephants and a field train of 40 pieces, 10,000 Carnatic peons. Besides this force Hyder has in garrison at Seringapatnam 3,000 sepoys, at Biddenore 5,000 sepoys at Bangalore 3,000 sepoys, at Dindegul 1,000, and many other small forts and garrisons.

5. This statement of Hyder's force agrees very exactly with every other account that I have been able to obtain of it, and I think it cannot be doubted but that it is prepared with too much care and attention either for self defence or useless parade. He is now in the height of his power; since the Marrattas have yielded to him the territory he lost in his last war with them, he does not seem disposed to avail himself further of their divisions to extend his possessions on that side. The power, therefore, whom he probably considers with a jealous eye is yours and that of the Nabob of the Carnatic. The correspondence he keeps up constantly with Mr. Law at Pondicherry favours the opinion that he is not inattentive to events in Europe. Mr. Law on the other hand seems preparing to execute whatever commands he may receive. Whilst he is finishing the fortifications of Pondicherry, he is endeavouring to collect a force in the Circar of Murtizangur, the country of Bazalet Jung in the neighbourhood of Mazulipatnam, with a view to establish an interest in the country governments in the quarter which may, if suffered to remain, grow formidable to your possessions in the Circars. I have taken the liberty to enter into this political digression only to point out the absolute necessity I think there is to be prepared against all events by collecting your troops more into a body and in consequence thereof, could wish that if the plan I recommended to you in my letter of the 30th of

November be approved of, it may be executed as early as possible.

6. From a letter which I delivered into Council on the 20th instant from a person who was lately at Mauritius it appears that the force which the French entertain at present there consists of 2,500 European soldiers, and at Bourbon of 250. There are the remains of those troops which came from Europe in the year 1770. There are officers yet for an establishment of 6,000 men, the Chevalier de Louze commands them with the rank of Colonel. Exclusive of those the number of inhabitants who are constantly exercised amount to 500; the *Coffres* to 2,000 which are supposed to be tolerably well disciplined.

7. By the precautions I took to settle the claims of right between your civil and military servants at the factories I have the pleasure to acquaint you that not the most trivial dispute has yet happened at those stations, although the difficulty was greater in adjusting some nice distinctions, than could occur at the two other Presidencies on account of there being two Chiefs at some of them, namely the Commercial and Revenue Chief each claiming the same honors and the same power.

8. Annexed are the regulations that were established there, which, were they carried into execution at the other settlements might probably, produce the same effects.

9. The Second Brigade still continues employed in the service of the Nabob of Oude. It was rather late before they could be cantooned, occasioned by the indecision of the Nabob whether he would retain them in the rainy season, or not, but at last having had so many proofs of the turbulent and mutinous disposition of his troops he thought it better to pay the subsidy than to risk his safety or his sovereignty with them alone. The returns of Bombay, Madrass and Bengal will go in the packet. We have still on this establishment 62 cadets many of whom have been upwards of three years in that station, but it is impossible to promote them untill the supernumerary list of officers, amounting in all to 46, is reduced. One cause why your military expences must exceed, in some degree, the calculation of the establishment is, that there are always several battalions employed on occasional service. Four have been constantly in service since my arrival in the reduction of the rebellious zemindars on the western frontiers. The expence is then much increased by *batta*, by stores and tents. With respect to every other military expence (excepting the hospital and the expences incident to the carrying on the fortifications which I have not yet had time to look into) appertaining either to the magazines or the troops I can venture to assure you that every possible check is established either by the Board of Ordnance or the Commissary General. Whether the stores for the Military Paymaster are to be provided by contract is not yet decided; but whatever way it is the provision of them will be at least fifteen per cent cheaper than the former contract prices. There will be likewise a saving of one lack of rupees in the army contract. I hope there will be likewise a considerable one on the boats as all those which had been kept on the establishment

at the Presidency are discharged and the service performed by contract. The superintendancy of all the boats is now vested in the Quarter Master General.

10. To keep this establishment any ways compleat, I think that not less than seven hundred recruits should be annually sent over including serjeants of which there is the greatest want. Twenty three battalions of seapoys, having ten serjeants each require 230 without comprehending the regiments, and artillery, and as there is a great mortality of those serjeants who are serving in the seapoy corps employed on the frontiers, it is not possible to furnish a sufficient number of proper men to compleat them.

I have the honor to remain with the greatest respect.

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, and
most humble servant,

J. Clavering

Commander-in-Chief in India.

Fort William,
July 21st, 1775.

[P.S.] I have the honor to transmit a general return of the Honourable Company's troops on the Coast of Coromandel with a list of officers corresponding with it for the month of March-75. A general return of the Honourable Company's troops under the Presidency of Bombay for the month of April -75, and a general return of all the troops under the Presidency of Fort William for the month of April 1775 with the disposition of the troops.

J.C.

XXIII

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The detention of the *Anson* at Achin and the failure of the *Northumberland* in her first attempt to clear the river in May last, will probably bring all the successive dispatches of the last five months to your hands so near the same point of time, that you will be overwhelmed with the load of so much accumulated matter. I with great repugnance contribute my share of it unwilling to add to your difficulties, and the more so as I have been made the principal subject of them.

2. For the sake of perspicuity I will beg leave to recapitulate the substance of those dispatches.

3. My letter by the *Anson* dated the 25th March advised you of the new ground to which the gentlemen of the majority had shifted their

attack upon me in the accusations preferred against me in the names of Maha Raja Nund-Comar and the Ranny of Burdwan; of my refusal to submit my conduct to their inquisition, of my claim, unadmitted by them, of dissolving the meetings of the Council in which it was attempted.

4. My former letters by the *Northumberland* intended for her first dispatch bear the following dates, the 16th, 18th and 20th of May. They contain the following events viz.

5. The accusation of Meer Zeynal Abdeen, the consequent dismissal of the *Fouzdar* of Houghley appointed by the late administration and the appointment of Mirza Mendee, a creature of Maharaja Nund Comar, to that office in his stead. The accusation of Raja Ramkishen, the adopted son of the Ranny of Rajeshahee against Cantoo Baboo my *banyan* and others, the consequent dispossession of Deleelroy the farmer and Nundoolol the *dewan* of Rajeshahee, and the grant of that farm to Ramkissen with a declaration of his right to the eventual succession to the zemindarry.

6. The accusation of Mr. James Grant and Noonid Roy against Munny Begum, the late guardian of the Nabob and administratrix of his household, her consequent dismissal; the elevation of the son of Nund-comar to those high offices in her stead and the extraordinary powers granted to Mr. Goring deputed for the execution of those purposes to Moorshedabad.

7. The charge of a conspiracy produced by Mr. Barwell, Mr. Vansittart and myself against Mr. Joseph Fowke, Mr. Francis Fowke, Maharaja Nund Comar and Roy Radachurn in the Supreme Court of Justice and the visit made to Maharaja Nund Comar on that occasion by the gentlemen of the majority for his protection.

8. The commitment of Maharaja Nund Comar by the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court on a charge of forgery, the correspondence which passed on this occasion between the Board and the Supreme Court and the extraordinary promotion of the son of Maharajah Nund Comar, as aforementioned, which I repeat as it took place at the same period of time and with a design too apparently connected with it.

9. I shall now relate the sequel of these transactions. For the subsequent proceedings against Deleel roy and his agents I refer for brevity to the Consultations of the 14th and 30th June in the Revenue Department. In these you will find the transactions of the Provincial Council of Murshedabad wholly suspended for the sake of investing Ramkishen the new farmer, with an authority to make a judicial enquiry into the conduct of the man whom he had dispossessed and to decide upon the accounts depending between them, an act equally subversive of every principle of justice and policy and unwarranted by a single instance in the most arbitrary time even of the Mogul Government.

10. For a testimony of the estimation in which the Council of Murshedabad held the character and conduct of Deleel roy, and of the uncommon punctuality with which he had fulfilled his engagements, I

request your attention to the following paragraph of their letter to the Board dated the 11th May and entered in Consultation of the 13th June. "The Farmer Deleel roy hath behaved extremely well and shewn himself to be man of capacity and good character". By some mistake, which I beg leave in this place to correct, I find that I have mentioned that balance of his farm at the close of the year to be 38,000 rupees instead of 3,999-8-12, a sum remaining only for adjustment.

11. The Begum since her disgrace has been added to the list of my accusers. The manner in which this extraordinary manoeuvre was effected will be too plainly suggested even by the facts which appear in the abrupt and mysterious relation of it by Mr. Goring.

12. Mr. Goring was deputed by the Board to divest the Begum of her authority, to place it in the hands of the son of Nund Comar, to receive from the Begum the accounts of the Nabob's expences and to deliver them to the gentlemen who were at the same time appointed to examine and report them to the Board. What private instructions he received I know not but one of his first acts of authority, after having taken care to impress the Begum with a proper idea of the extent of his power over her own person by apprizing her of the order of the Board for her removal from the palace to a remote house in the city and that the execution of this order depended solely on his option, was to imprison Etwar Ally Cawn, her chief eunuch and confidential servant, on the complaint of one of the servants of the household respecting a private grievance totally foreign from the declared purposes of Mr. Goring's commission. By this species of torture inflicted on the mind of a weak woman, who had hitherto been accustomed to the gentlest treatment and most respectful address from all persons of what rank soever who approached her, she was compelled to deliver a paper to Mr. Goring containing an account of two sums charged to have been paid to Mr. Middleton and myself, each amounting to 1,50,000 rupees. Etwar Ally was in consequence immediately released from imprisonment and the Begum permitted to continue in possession of her own apartments.

13. It is remarkable that even the obvious precaution of introducing this strange production with some circumstances which might mark it as the voluntary act of the Begum was totally disregarded; and the Begum, a woman of the first rank in the province, made abruptly to present a formal accusation against the first member of the present, and the two first members of the last administration with the gloomy silence of a common mercenary informer.

14. The following extracts will serve as a specimen of the oppression exercised on the Begum¹ and her officers the mode chosen by Mr. Goring for eluding the appeals which she might be provoked to make to the Supreme Court of Justice, and the derision with which this insolent young man has dared to treat her feelings even in a letter written by him to the Council.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Goring to the Board dated the 17th

May 1775.

"On the Begum's hearing that part of the Letter read relating to her being removed to Meer Jaffier's House, She exclaimed against it, and said that if she was to quit the Kella She would go to Calcutta. I told her this was a discretionary Order and left to me if I thought it necessary, explaining to her that Part of my Instructions, and assuring her she should be used with the utmost respect according to your orders. I beg to know, however if you will admit of her going to Calcutta should I find it necessary to remove her from the Kella, which I fear I shall from the Character of the People about her, particularly Etwar Ally Cawn and Roy Ang sing the head of the Hircarrah who have been the chief Managers since the Begum has had charge of the Nabob and who have accumulated great Wealth, particularly the former, by his Excellency's Account, who was raised from a menial Station to the One he now holds."

"As the Begum hinted that there were Courts of Justice at Calcutta, and that the aggrieved could there get redress, if You think proper all orders for confining the Servants who may be or are faulty shall be issued in the Nabob's Name, who I apprehend has an undoubted Right over them."

Extract of a letter from Mr. Goring to the Board dated the 5th of June.

"I have only to add that previous to sending the above Papers I waited on her (the Begum) with the Nabob and Goordass. On mentioning the Matter she flew into a violent Passion, abusing Goordass, beat herself, and denied the whole".

Extract of a letter from Nonid Roy² addressed to the *General* and the Gentlemen of the Council and entered in Consultation of the 24th July.

"On the 2nd of the same Month between seven and eight in the Morning Rajah Goordass went to Ferralang³, and was received very graciously by Mr. Goring who expressed his pleasure at the kindness of the Rajah in this visit: After which they entered into Conversation with Chyton Durr the Behla Treasurer concerning the Nezeranna given to the Governor amounting to two Lacks of Rupees, which were sent to Calcutta at the time of the Begum's being invested with the Administration. At last the said Treasurer mentioned something contrary to the Orders of the said Gentleman, and was therefore put under a Guard of Sepoys for near two hours, after which he agreed that he would relate in the Evening whatever he might be able to discover from Yatelar Ally Cawn, and from an Examination into the Papers. On this he was released. Rajah Goordass, and the said Treasurer went in the evening to Ferralang and remained there till near eight at night. I understand that nothing was settled. Victuals being sent to Mr. Goring from the Nabob's Sircar according to our established Custom, he sent it back again. The Papers of the Serishta of the Nizamut Behla etc., remained open from 9 o'Clock in the Morning till seven in the Evening."

15. Mr. Goring still continues at the city, notwithstanding the ostensible purposes of his commission arg, or ought to have been, long ago concluded, retaining the Begum in the most absolute state of dependence and persisting in his endeavors to extort from her further accusations, sometimes, practicing on her fears by threats, at others tempting her by promises of restoring her former authority. This I learn from private information, but I do not think it safe to divulge my authority. You will judge of the probability of it from the facts avowed by Mr. Goring in his letters and from the general tenor of his commission. This treatment of the Begum has hitherto produced no other effect than to irritate her to short gusts of anger and ineffectual resolutions to come down to Calcutta for an asylum against a tyranny which she could no longer submit to.

16. Such is the state of the person whom your former administration thought worthy of being placed in the first office of dignity in these provinces, and whom your subsequent commands have since confirmed in that trust, with expressions of your fullest approbation and even the most honorable testimonies of your applause bestowed on myself for the part which I had in the plan and conduct of this transaction.

17. As your curiosity may be excited to read at large the proceedings on the dismissal and subsequent treatment of Munny Begum, and the other matters produced from both, I beg leave to recommend to your perusal the following Consultations of the Secret Department in which they will be found, viz., 1st, 5th, 9th, 10th and 25th May, 8th and 12th June and 24th July.

18. The bounds which I have prescribed to myself in this address will not admit of my entering on the wide field which has been opened up by the trials of Messrs. Fowke, Maharaja Nund Comar and Roy Radachurn. I shall content myself with saying that they were acquitted on the first trial in which I was the prosecutor, and that with the aid of his son's evidence which Mr. Fowke had complained of being denied him on that trial, he and Maharaja Nundcomar were found guilty on the second in which Mr. Barwell was the prosecutor.

19. For the rest I beg leave to refer to the Consultations in the Revenue Department of the 13th, 14th, 16th, 20th and 23rd December and in the Secret Department of the 20th and 24th April, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 26th, 27th and 28th June and 3rd July, and to the printed copies of these trials which will be made public.

20. To those who have not had opportunities of seeing or reading the progressive state of the affairs of this Government in the last four months it will not be an easy point of conjecture from what connection the trials of Mr. Fowke etc., for a conspiracy against myself and others and of Maharaja Nundcomar for forgery, should have drawn the Council of Bengal into public contests with the Judges of the Supreme Court. Yet such have arisen and have been carried to very alarming extremes; if a cordial union and mutual co-operation between the two bodies to

which the powers of government and the administration of justice have been committed, are, especially in the infancy of a new system, necessary to its establishment and to the peace, order and security of the country. Hitherto I have studiously avoided saying any thing upon the subject of these contests although they had commenced before the dates of some of my last addresses. I feared not so much to trust to my own judgement, as to the construction to which it was liable, in offering my sentiments upon them. I am deeply interested in these disputes. I will not deny it. My honor and my reputation acquired by a long and laborious service, the character and fortunes of all who were connected with me, the peace of mind and tranquillity of the people of these provinces, were all connected with the authority of the Supreme Court and with the issue of the attempts which have been made to overawe and reduce it. When lands, honors and high appointments were publicly bestowed as the rewards of informations, and disgrace and deprivation inflicted on those who refused to be the instruments of such services, the protection of the Supreme Court and the firmness and integrity of its members, afforded the only possible resource of safety against the contagion of such an influence.

21. How much this was the opinion of the inhabitants of this settlement will appear from the addresses which have been presented by them to the Chief Justice and the Judges; and until I shall hear better reasons for Mr. Playdell's dismissal from the office which he has long held of Superintendent of the Police, and for the attempt made to expell him from the country, than his having been dismissed ten years ago from the service by the Company who have since permitted him to return to Bengal, or than the expiration of the term to which his residence was originally limited, though since prolonged by the tenor of the Company's instructions, I shall not hesitate to join the general voice of the people in pronouncing this act as a strong presumption that the members of the majority entertain the same opinion of the effects of the protection derived from the Supreme Court, and intended it as a punishment to Mr. Playdell for having signed his name at the head of an address of the free merchants of Calcutta and presented it to the Chief Justice in the open Court acknowledging the blessing of the protection.

22. Had the correspondence which has been carried on by the Council with the Judges been of such a kind as only required my disapprobation of it on the face of the records I should have continued to observe the same silence concerning it which I have hitherto imposed on myself in my letters to your Honorable Court; but as I have judged it necessary to refuse the signature of my name to part of the correspondence I find myself compelled to drop my former reserve in the necessity which there is of assigning my reasons for this public demonstration of my dissent from the acts and declarations of the collective body of your administration. To avoid prolixity on a subject which will not admit of being abstracted I shall do little more than separate the distinct parts of it and point out the dates of the Consultations in which they will be found at large

earnestly recommending them to your attentive perusal.

23. The first occasion of the altercation between the Board and the Supreme Court arose from a petition which was presented to the Board from Maharaja Nundcomar on the 8th of May respecting his commitment to the common jail on an accusation of forgery, and praying to be released from it on the plea of his religious purity which would be defiled by his continuance in it. The majority thought proper to send for and examine the Sheriff and his deputy concerning the allegations of Nund Comar's petition, and the manner of his commitment, which they surmised to have been illegal. These gentlemen were afterwards directed to wait "on the chief Justice on the Part of the Board, and to represent to him the Situation of the Rajah Nund Comar, whose Religion, as he had informed the Board, obliged him to deny himself Sustenance in the particular Circumstances of his present Confinement, and to desire that the Chief Justice would consider of granting the Prisoner such relief as might be consistent with the strict Security of his person to answer to the Charges brought against him", and it was further resolved that "a Copy of the latter Part of the Rajah's Petition to the Board should be delivered to the Sheriff."

24. To these resolutions I entered my objections on that day's proceedings, but suffered the message to be sent in the names of the Governor General and Council not deeming it of such consequence as to require my public disapprobation of it.

25. The next day the Jailor was sent for and examined on a motion of Mr. Francis which was produced by the following minute of General Clavering, which I quote at length, as it appears to me to convey a most striking proof of the passionate temper with which the gentlemen of majority espoused the cause of Maharajah Nundcomar.

Minute of General Clavering in Consultation of the 9th May.

"I acquaint the Board that I received a Letter from Mr. Joseph Fowke who is just come from visiting Maharaja Nand Comar, acquainting me that it is the Opinion of the people who are about him that they do not think he can live another day without drink. - He says, his tongue is much parched, but that his Spirit is Firm. In the Conversation that he had with the Rajah, the Rajah told him don't trouble yourself about me: The will of Heaven must be complied with. I am Innocent."

26. In consequence of the Jailor's examination another message was proposed to be sent to the Chief Justice but a letter from him, in reply to the former, arriving while the Council was sitting, it was repealed.

27. The correspondence thus begun was continued in letters of the following dates: viz., from the Chief Justice of the 9th and 15th May and 19th June, and from the Board of the 9th and 16th May and 19th June. I do not chuse to abstract them, because I think them deserving of your perusal.

28. The letters from the Board of the 9th and 16th May I signed though neither the style nor substance of them were such as I approved. To that of the 19th June both Mr. Barwell and myself refused our

signatures. Our refusal, however, was of no consequence in this instance as the letter was returned unopened by the Chief Justice, who chose that method of breaking off a correspondence which he thought it improper to continue in his own person with the Board.

29. About the same time another correspondence took place between the Board and the Justices Le Maitre and Hyde on a requisition made by them, on the 20th May, of a copy of such minutes of the Consultations as mentioned them by name and related to the exercise of the authority invested in them by His Majesty's charter. As this requisition was known to allude to the proceedings of the Council of the 8th of May, on which day the Sheriff and his deputy were examined concerning the commitment of Nund Comar by Justices Le Maitre and Hyde, Mr. Barwell and myself proposed to grant them extracts of such parts of that day's minutes as concerned those gentlemen particularly. The majority refused it. I signed the answer without adding any further objection. It produced a second letter from those gentlemen dated the 25th May which was answered on the 8th of June, the majority adhering to their former refusal, and Mr. Barwell and myself dissenting. But the letter was signed by both.

30. The last debate was with the Chief Justice and Judges of the Court collectively. It was occasioned by a claim of a very extraordinary nature which was made by Radachurn the Nabob's *vaikar* in a memorial presented to the Board on the 20th of June. He was at that time under a prosecution before the sessions of Oyer and Terminer on the indictment for a conspiracy as has been related. He pleaded that he was an ambassador, claimed an exemption in that character from the English laws and desired the interposition of the Board in his behalf. The majority warmly espoused his cause, and a letter was written to the Court asserting in the name of the Company their claim to the exemption of Rada churn from the Jurisdiction of the Court, and requiring that the authors of the prosecution against him might be "proceeded against as the Law directs". I have marked the above expressions, because it will be remembered that I was one of Radachurn's prosecutors, and I leave it to your Honorable Court to decide on the decency of such a demand so publicly made against the first member of their own body.

31. Mr. Barwell and myself both refused to sign the letter, and the majority in a minute, entered on the Consultation of the 26th of June, protested against us for the refusal which they were pleased to call an arbitrary and illegal proceeding. Our reasons will appear at large in the Consultation to which I refer, adding in this place that the letter being addressed to the Court would of course become public and in effect was read in the open court. It concerned us to guard our own characters against the imputation of an act which we considered illegal in itself and highly disrespectful in the manner of it. This could only be done by preventing its appearance with our names added to those of the Council whose act it really was. Neither was there much danger of its

"informing the world of the disunion which unhappily prevailed in this Council", which has been urged as an objection to it in the protest of the majority since this had been already so industriously and effectually promulgated by their own acts that it has been long known to every individual of these provinces; and if it were not this very interposition of the Board standing forth as advocates for a man under prosecution by two of its own members and reclaiming the exertion of the laws for the punishment of two of its own members, was as public and as manifest an information to "the World of the disunion which unhappily subsists in this Council" as if it had been proclaimed in direct terms.

32. A correspondence of some length ensued between the Council and the Supreme Court in letters and messages from the Board and in messages from the Court. Mr. Barwell and myself refused to sign the letters.

33. To invalidate the plea of the Council in favor of Radachurn I caused to be laid before the Court by my counsel an affidavit, which I had taken in the presence of the Chief Justice, containing several facts which the Judges thought necessary to have proved for directing their judgement on the pretensions of the Nabob to an independent sovereignty on which that plea was primarily grounded. I understand that this will be imputed to me by the majority as a crime and that I am to be charged with having betrayed the secrets of the Company and exposed them to the assaults of their enemies by a premature declaration of independency in the administration of this country. To obviate such an imputation I herewith enclose a copy of the affidavit which you will find to recite only such facts as are a ready well known to the public, being almost a literal transcript from the printed books of the Proceedings of the House of Commons.

34. It would ill become me to remove the veil which the policy of many has deemed it necessary to hold before the actual government of these provinces while you shall allow of its continuance, but I will presume to say that whatever arguments might have been formerly urged for it is now become totally incompatible with the system established by the late Act of Parliament since the Supreme Court of Judicature, which has been declaredly constituted for the relief of the inhabitants of these provinces against the oppression of power, could be reduced to a mere cypher if the officers of this Government might use the Nabob's name to screen themselves from the jurisdiction of the Court. How readily that artifice would be embraced will appear from the presumptuous attempt made by Mr. Goring to employ it in imprisoning the Nabob's own servants which has been already quoted from one of his letters.

35. But without insisting further on this argument I presume that I shall not be deemed to have improperly revealed any of the secrets of the Company in affirming to a court of justice in a cause in which I was materially concerned, what had been before published to the World by the authority of Parliament itself.

36. The zeal which the majority affected to express on this occasion

for the privileges of the Nabob, and the honor of the Company which they have declared to be wounded by the insult offered to the person of his public minister, ill agrees with the state of servitude to which they themselves have reduced the Nabob himself and his whole household. Radachurn was a man scarce known before this time but by his relation to Nund Comar, and had so little a conception of the pretended sanctity of his own character that he has since affirmed the reverse on oath before the Chief Justice. He was summoned to answer a criminal charge against him in a legal court of judicature. This was the enormity for which the course of justice was opposed and the Court itself insulted with authoritative demands and ensnaring questions by the rulers of the British Government in India, and for which the honor of the Company was to be redeemed by the punishment of their first member who had dared to appeal to the law against this pretended ambassador. Where was this nice sensibility for the Company's honor, and the security of the Nabob's privileges when the majority took upon them to arm a junior servant of the Company with a power, independent of all law, to deprive the guardian of his household of that office held under your express authority, to expell her from her own apartments and from the bosom of her family, to deprive her of her own servants, to imprison or send them to Calcutta, and to make the Nabob himself the wretched and passive instrument of his own disgrace and of the oppressions exercised on his own servants by the expedient, already quoted from one of Mr. Goring's letters, of issuing all orders for the confining the servants of the household in the Nabob's name ?

37. The majority have not failed to cry out against the consequences of this judgement of the Supreme Court as if they had thereby decided the question of the sovereignty of these provinces, giving it totally and absolutely to the Company and at once removing the screen of the Nabob's name which has ever been held up as necessary both with respect to the European nations and the country powers; and they affect to see the greatest danger in the consequences. For my part as I do not discover this extensive decision in the judgement of the Court on the special matter before them I cannot apprehend these dangerous consequences from it. You will find in many parts of our Consultations for several years past that the French have repeatedly declared that they know the Nabob to be a mere cypher and that they will on every occasion look to us as accountable for any acts of government by which their rights may be affected; so that if any of them were of a nature to involve us in a war with France and to disturb the peace of Europe it would equally happen whether they were executed in our own name or in that of the Nabob. But supposing the case to be as the majority state it, who are to blame in it? They who wantonly and unnecessarily in a trifling cause brought this matter to an open decision or they who gave judgement upon it as they were bound to do by their duty, by their oaths and in the distribution of public justice regardless of its political consequences or of any other

inconveniences which might attend it ?

38. Permit me, Honourable Sirs, to take this occasion to disclaim the intention which may be obviously ascribed to these appeals of having written them solely for my own vindication. Had this been the sole object which I could have attained by them, much as I feel for my own honor and great as my ambition is to devote my future labors to your service, I should have long since quitted the scene of trouble in which I am involved nor ever presumed to intrude on the business of your Honorable Court with the relation of my grievances. I have made you the judges of them because they are yours. The measures of the late administration and the divisions of the present are so intimately interwoven in every thread of them with your affairs that they are not to be separated without hazard of ruin from too precipitate a revulsion. If in the principles and conduct of the last administration the true line of your interests had been attended to and promoted, I cannot abandon the defence of them without sacrificing those interests. If I think I see the maxims of the present administration dictated by private rancour, or the spirit of ambition, and their actions uniformly tending to distract and injure the affairs entrusted jointly to our charge it is my duty to warn you of the impending danger, and your wisdom will distinguish between the plain assertions of facts and the colorings of prejudice in my representations. If I am conscious of possessing talents and integrity such as may qualify me to fill with credit the seat which you have assigned me I should repay the benefit with ingratitude, and disgrace the choice which you have made of me were I to desert it because the possession of it was attended with present trouble and a temporary mortification. If the powers of this vast Government, which were formed for the purpose of concentrating the scattered and independent parts of your empire and drawing improvements from it proportionable to so extensive a combination, are employed only for the support of a faction or the gratification of private vengeance; and if in the pursuit of such objects your rights are exposed to a public and judicial reference by one part of your administration for the sake of charging on the other the injuries which they may sustain in the discussion it is my duty to appeal to your authority for the preservation of your constitution, not to your justice for the redress of a personal wrong.

39. Such is the true state of the contests which have prevailed in this Government and the last part of it is exactly applicable to those which were maintained with the Court on the pretended rights of the Nabob's *vakeel*.

40. The prosecution of Radachurn would have passed as a common occurrence of no concern or connection with the public affairs had the majority suffered it to take its natural course. But he was their instrument and it was necessary to defend him. The cause was mine and Mr. Barwell's, and it was necessary for them to oppose it. Radachurn was therefore made to reclaim the rights of an ambassador

without having ever before conceived an idea upon the nature of that relation. The Nabob was made to write letters remonstrating against the injury offered to his honor and dignity in the person of his minister; a letter was written from the Council in the style of a mandate to the Court to put a stop to the process; declarations were made from the Council in open court, to which men of all nations are indiscriminately admitted, importing that in all the contests between the Government and the French the former was supported by the single credit of the Nabob's sovereignty, which being denied by the decision of the Supreme Court, this Government was left without a fence against the future encroachments or hostilities of the French or excuse for the past transactions in opposition to them; and you are now threatened with a war with France and a total dissolution of your government and constitution, for what else can be meant by these words of the General Letter?

"We do not take upon us to assent to or condemn the Doctrine avowed by the Judges in respect to the Rights which may belong to the Suba; but we hope that the Difficulties in which the Declaration of it may involve this Presidency, and which may ultimately affect the Peace of Europe will be duely considered by you, and that if it should be determined by You that the Suba's Government is annihilated, You will Instruct Us in what Form the Government of the Province is to be administered for the future."

41. For a connected view of the several subjects which have been discussed with the Judges of the Supreme Court I hereto subjoin the dates of the Consultations in which they severally occur.

Proceedings relating to Mahraja Nund Comar. Consultation, Secret Department, 8th, 9th and 16th May and 27 June.

Proceedings concerning Messrs Le Maitre and Hyde. Consultation, Secret Department, 22nd May and 8th June.

Proceedings respecting Radachurn Roy. Consultation, Secret Department, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 26th, 27th and 28th June, 3rd and 4th July.

42. You will receive in our Proceedings of the 6th of June a copy of the new treaty which has been concluded with the Nabob Asoph-ul-dowla. You are already acquainted with my opinion that our engagements with the late Vizier were equally binding upon us in regard to his successor and consequently that we could not with Justice make any further demands upon him; and you will find by our Consultations that this was so strongly the idea of the Nabob Asoph-ul-Dowla, that for some time he seemed resolved rather to dispense with the assistance of our army than to submit to new terms. Although therefore upon more mature consideration of his inability to maintain himself without our support the necessity of his affairs had obliged him to acquiesce I doubt not but he is in his heart dissatisfied at the measures which have been taken; and the express limitation of the present engagements to his life will naturally encourage an opinion that upon his death we shall make still further demands. As however the treaty which has

been concluded is very advantageous to the Company it is my wish that it may be confirmed by your Honorable Court ; but I take the liberty of recommending that your orders may be such as may tend to conciliate the mind of the Nabob, and to remove the apprehension of any future encroachments on his dominions. For these purposes I submit the propriety of your giving peremptory directions to your Administration in Bengal to be particularly attentive to support and befriend him, to maintain him in the possession of the Rohilla country without making the demands upon him to which you are entitled by the 7th article, and that in case of his death the present treaty shall be confirmed with his successor; and to make known these orders to the Nabob. I recommend this with the greatest confidence as it is so entirely consistent with the tenor of your former commands, and particularly the second paragraph of your instructions to the Commissioners of the 15th of September 1769 wherein you direct them "to make known to the Powers in India, that it is by no means the intention of the Company to encroach upon their Neighbours, but that they are determined to confine their views to the revenue of Bengal, and their present Possessions." To maintain the Nabob in the possession of the Rohilla country seems necessary indeed to enable him to make his stipulated payments to the Company, and I am persuaded that the knowledge of your resolution to do so will alone be sufficient to effect the purpose as no power of Hindostan will in that case venture to invade it.

43. With respect to the country of Benares etc., I think it should be left entirely to the management of Rajah Cheyt Sing, and that we should no[t] otherwise interfere with him than to receive the established tribute. This I deem to be the best policy, at the same time that it is most conformable to your abovementioned orders, and to the engagements already subsisting with him.

44. In my letter of the 25th March I transmitted you a copy of a minute which I had written in reply to the General's remarks on the estimate drawn out by the accountants of the probable receipts and disbursements from the 1st of January to the 31st of December 1775. I then calculated that on the 31st of December there would be a balance of thirty-seven lacks of current rupees in the Bengal treasuries after compleatly discharging the Company's bond debt. I now inclose an account of the balances in your revenue and commercial treasuries made up to the latest period.*

The account of the former is current rupees	84,96,451- 5- 3
Of the latter	15,99,562- 6- 6
	<hr/>
	100,96,013-11- 9
And the amount of your debt at this time	
agreeably to the accompanying account is	89,76,217- 5- 6
The difference is current rupees	11,19,796- 6- 3

45. In order, therefore, to realize the balance which [I] calculated, it is only necessary that the receipts from this time to the end of December should exceed the disbursements by twenty-six lacks, of which, as the intermediate months are the season for the largest receipts and the smallest disbursements, there cannot be any doubt.

46. The Accountant General of the Revenue Department having now formed a compleat adjustment of the salt accounts for the Bengal year 1179, a copy of it will be transmitted to you a number in this packet by which you will perceive that the mode which was adopted for the management of this article besides securing the full collection of the Company's duty has produced them an entire new branch of revenue to the neat amount of 10,85,715 *sicca* rupees.

47. Inclosed is an account current of the opium provided for the No. 5 Company in 1773 and 1774⁶. The neat profit has amounted to current rupees 7,05,127-11- 6.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Honorable Sirs,
Your most faithful and
most obedient humble servant,
Warren Hastings.

Fort William,
31st July 1775.

P.S. Since closing the above I have received the account no. 6 from the Accomptant General of the Revenue Department by which it appears that there was in the treasuries of the Presidency on the 2nd of this month no less a sum than current rupees 59,14,846- 10- 6⁶.

[August 1775]

Warren Hastings.

Enclosure I

(*vide* paragraph 33)

Fort William in Bengal to witt the King against Joseph Fowke and others. Affidavit of Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General of Bengal.

The deponent maketh oath and saith that the late President and Council did in or about the month of August 1772 by their own authority appoint Manee Begum, relict of the late Nawab Meer Jaffer Allee Cawn, to be Guardian to the present Nabob Mobarek-ul Dowlah, and Rajah Goordass son of Maharajah Nund Comar, to be *duan* of the said Nabob's household, allowing to the said Manee Begum a salary of 1,40,000 rupees per annum and to the said Rajah Goordass for himself and officers a salary of 1,00,000 rupees per annum.

That the said late President and Council did in or about the month of August 1772 plan and constitute regular and distinct courts of justice, civil and criminal, by their own authority for administration of justice to the inhabitants throughout Bengal without consulting the said Nabob or

requiring his concurrence, and that the said civil courts were made solely dependant on the Presidency of Calcutta and the said criminal courts were put under the inspection and controul of the Company's servants, although ostensibly under the name of the *nazim* as appears from the following extracts from the plan for the administration of justice constituted by the President and Council as aforesaid.

"That in each District shall be established two Courts of Judicature one by the name of Mofussel Dewannee Adawlut or Provincial Courts of Dewannee for the Cognizance of civil Causes. The other
Article 1 by the Name of Phouzdarree Adawlut or Court of Phouzdarree for the Trial of all Crimes and Misdemeanors."

"That in the Phouzdarree Adawlut the Cauzee and Mustee of the District and two Moulavys shall sit to expound the law and determine how far the Delinquent shall be guilty of a breach thereof but
Article 4th that the Collector shall also make it his business to attend to the Proceedings of this Court so far as to see that all necessary Evidences are Summoned and examined that due Weight is allowed to their Testimony and that the Decision past is fair and impartial according to the Proofs exhibited in the Course of the Trial and that no Causes shall be heard or tryed but in the open Court regularly assembled."

"That in like manner two Superior Courts of Justice shall be established at the Chief Seat of Government the one under the
Article 5 Denomination of the Dewannee Sudder Adawlut and the other the Nizamut Sudder Adawlut."

"That a Chief Officer of Justice appointed on the part of the Nazim shall preside in the Nizamut Adawlut by the Title of Darroga Adawlut assisted by the Chief Cauzee the Chief Mustee and three
Article 7 capable Moulavies, that their Duty shall be to revise all Proceedings of the Phousdarree Adawlut in Capital cases by signifying their Approbation or Disapprobation thereof with their reasons at large, to prepare the Sentence for the Warrant of the Nazim which shall be returned into the Mofussel and there carried into Execution. That with respect to this Court a similar controul shall be lodged in the President and Council as is vested in the Collectors of the Districts, so that the Company's Administration in Character of the King's Dewan may be satisfied that the Decrees of Justice on which both the Welfare and Safety of the Country so materially depend are not injured or perverted by the effects of Partiality or Corruption".

And the said deponent further saith that he believes the above to be true extracts from the said plan for administration of justice as entered in the Consultations. The said deponent further saith that the management of the revenues of the said province of Bengal has for some years past been and now is entirely in the hands of the East India Company and their representatives in this country without the smallest participation of the said Nabob and that this deponent further saith that in consequence of orders from the Court of Directors dated April 1771 the annual stipend

allowed to the said Nabob Mobarek-ul-Dowlah was reduced from the sum of rupees 31, 81, 991-9 ans. per annum to the sum of 16,00,000 rupees per annum. And lastly the said deponent saith that he believes all the above facts to be publickly known as they are particularly set forth in a printed book entitled Reports from the Committees of the House of Commons.

(Signed) Warren Hastings.

Sworn before me this
28th day of June 1775.
(Signed) E. Impey.

Enclosure 2
(vide paragraph 44)

Balances of cash of the Board of Trade

At the Presidency to 31st July	4,82,748-10-3	
Export Warehouse.. .. do.	1,000- 0-0	
Import Warehouse.. .. do.	18,105-10-0	
Buxey's Office..to 29th do.	18,413-11-1	
	—————	5,20,267-15-4
Dacca Factory to 30th April.....		6,85,599-14-6
Cossimbuzar ..to 31 March	98,911-14-5	
Beauleah to 30 April	27,061- 2-9	
Comercolly ...to 30 do.	240-14-0	
Rungpore.....to 30 do.	19,892- 4-3	
	—————	1,46,106- 3-5
Patna Factory to 30 do.....		19,538-15-6
Maulda do ...to 30 do.	.....	37,861- 4-0
Midnapore ..to 31 March	.....	17,492- 7-9
Chittagong Factory to 30 April	88,722- 7-4	
Luckypore .. to 30 April	52,221-15-5	
Colinda.....to 30 April	31,751- 3-3	
	—————	1,72,625-10-0
		—————
	Current rupees	15,99,552- 6-6

Accot. Office, 31st July 1775.

Errors excepted
(Signed) J.I. Keighly.

Enclosure 3
(vide paragraph 44)

Balances in the treasuries of the Provincial Councils,
Khalsah Treasury, General Treasury and in the Mint

Dinagepore Division	26th June 1775	8,85,709- 7- 15-0
Dacca do.	29th do.	6,58,527-14- 0-0
Burdwan do.	2nd July	1,38,809- 0- 0-0
Calcutta do.	28th do.	2,56,233-11-19-3
Moorshedabad do.	30th April	72,598- 6- 1-1
Durbar do.	30th do.	40,323-13- 1-2
Rajamehal Province	13th June	1,11,779-13-14-0
Boglepore do.	13th do.	1,77,612- 1- 3-0
Chittagong do.	11th do. no balance	
Subah Behar do.	13th do. <i>St.</i> Rs. 7,34,197 or <i>Sa.</i> 7,02,550- 8- 0-0	

<i>Khalsah</i> Treasury	31st July	<i>Sa.</i> Rs. 30,44,144-11-14-2
Ready money		6,22,095-2-14-2
Bills receivable		2,51,000-0- 0-0

8,73,095- 2-14-2

	<i>Sa.</i> Rs.	39,17,239-14-9-0
<i>Batta</i> 16 Per cent		6,26,758- 6-3 [<i>sic</i>]

C. Rs. 45,43,998- 4-7

Ballance in the General Treasury 31st July 1775

Ready money		13,30,041-11-9
Rupees unsorted	11,98,300	
Ballance in the Mint	3,31,253	

15,29,553- 0-0

C. Rs. 74,03,593- 0-4

Add a dispatch of 42 chests of treasure just arrived from Benaris under charge of Lieutenant Wright, said to contain rupees of sorts

10,92,858- 5-0

Rupees 84,96,451- 5-4

Fort William,
31st July 1775.

Errors excepted
(Signed) Charles Croftes
Accomptt. General to the Rev. Deptt.

Enclosure 4

(*vide* paragraph 44)

Debt at interest the 31st July 1775

	Interest	Princl.
Money borrowed at interest old account		35,337-10- 0

Money borrowed at interest 1766... ..	3,240- 0- 0
Interest due thereon to the 30th April 1774 the day on which it ceased agreeable to the advertisement of the 10th Febru- ary 1774... ..	2,080-10- 0
Money borrowed at interest 1768.	4,401- 0- 6
Interest due thereon to the 30th April the day on which it ceased agreeable to the advertisement of the 10th Febru- ary 1774.	1,976- 8- 3
Money borrowed at interest 1770	29,974- 0- 0
Interest due thereon to the 30th April 1774 the day on which it ceased agreeable to the advertisement of the 3rd March 1774	6,563-12- 1
Money borrowed at interest 1771.	80,760- 0- 9
Interest due thereon to the 31st December 1774 the day on which it ceased agree- able to the advertisement of the 28th July 1774... ..	12,490- 0- 8
Money borrowed at interest in January 1772	41,591-10- 8
Interest due thereon to the 15th April 1775 the day on which it ceased agree- able to the advertisement of the 14th February 1775	6,526- 1- 9
Money borrowed at interest in February, March and April 1772	3,56,646- 1- 9
Interest due thereon to the 15th May 1775 the day on which it ceased agree- able to the advertisement of the 24th April 1775	68,344- 0-10
Money borrowed at interest in May, June, July, August, September and October 1772	3,30,256-15- 3
Interest due thereon to the 30th June 1775 the day on which it ceased agreeable to the advertise- ment of the 8th June 1775	30,681- 9- 1
Money borrowed at interest in November and December 1772	10,53,730-11- 6
Interest due thereon to the 31st July 1775 the day on which it ceased agreeable to the advertisement of the 10th July 1775	77,838-10- 7
Money borrowed at interest in 1773	14,02,027- 4- 3
Interest due thereon to the 31st July 1737	76,967-10- 2

Money borrowed at interest 1774	
@ 5 per cent	13,15,302- 1- 3
Interest due thereon to the 31st	
July 1775	72,314-13-11
Money borrowed at interest 1775	
@ 8 per cent	55,644- 4- 9
Interest due thereon to the 31st	
July 1775	736- 9- 6
Money borrowed at interest 1775	
@ 8 per cent	47,696-11- 0
Interest due thereon to the 31st	
July 1775	1,724-11- 0
Money borrowed at interest 1775	
@ 5 per cent	8,05,869- 3- 0
Interest due thereon to the 31st	
July 1775... ..	16,938- 9- 2
Money borrowed at interest 1775	
@ 5 per cent payable 3 months	
after demand	30,17,500- 0- 0
Interest due thereon to the 31st July	
1775... ..	21,075-15-10
Principal of bonded debt 31st July 1775	85,79,977-10- 8
Interest due thereon	3,96,239-10-10
Amount of the bonded debt 31st July 1775	89,76,217-5-6

Errors excepted.

Fort William,
31st July 1775.

Hn. Larkins
Sub-Accompt.

Enclosure
(*vide* paragraph
Account of prime cost charges and net proceeds of
Ophium of 1773 :

One invoice dated 9th December 1773 :		
500 chests amounting to	..	1,74,798- 6- 3
One invoice dated 23rd December 1773		
350 chests amounting to	..	1,23,027- 1- 6
Profit on the above 850 chests	..	3,54,110-14- 9
<hr/>		
Chests 850 cost	..	current rupees 6,51,938- 8 -6

Ophium of 1774 :

One invoice dated 17th November 1774		
1,300 chests amounting to	..	4,98,568- 0- 0
One invoice dated 6th March 1775 :		
611 chests amounting to	..	2,32,371- 3- 3
One invoice dated 16th March 1775 :		
550 chests amounting to	..	2,04,160- 0- 0
Profit on the above 2,461 chests	..	4,31,016-12- 9
<hr/>		
Chests 2,461 cost	..	current rupees 13,66,116- 0- 0

Net profit to the Honourable Company
On 850 chests of opium
On 2,461 chests of opium

5

47)

chests of opium sold on account of the Honourable Company

850 chests

February 1774 : Sent to Balambangan 500 chests

invoiced at	..	3,86,911- 6- 6
-------------	----	----------------

March 1774 : Sold at public outcry, 350 chests

produced	..	2,65,025- 0- 0
----------	----	----------------

Net proceeds of 850 chests	..	current rupees 6,51,936- 6- 6
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2,461 chests

December 1774 : Sold at public outcry by the Export

Ware-house Keeper, 1298 chests produced	..	7,31,890- 0- 0
---	----	----------------

March 1775 : Sent to Balambangan 380 chests

invoiced at	..	2,85,000- 0- 0
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28th March 1775 : Sold at public outcry by the

Superintendent of the <i>Khalsah</i> , 110 chests	25,425- 0- 0
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4th May 1775 : Sold as above

550 chests	2,93,675- 0- 9
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Deduct allowance for short
weight to the purchasers at
the sales

22,676-13- 3

2,70,998- 2- 9

25th July : Sold as above 111 chests 58,215- 0- 0

Deduct allowance for short
weight to the purchasers at
the sales

5,412- 2- 9

52,802-13- 3

3,49,226- 0- 0

Remaining in the Export Warehouse : 2 chests

Damaged not sold : 10 chests

Chests 2,461 cost	..	current rupees 13,66,116- 0- 0
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on 3,311 chests of opium vizt.

C. Rs. 3,54,110-14- 9

C. Rs. 4,31,016-12- 9

C. Rs. 7,85,127-11- 6

Enclosure 6
(*vide* postscript)

Memorandum of cash in the treasuries at the Presidency
the 2nd August 1775

Khalsah Treasury 2nd August 1775

	<i>Sa.</i> Rs.	6,19,217-11-14- 2	
Bills receivable		2,51,000- 0- 0- 0	
		<hr/>	
		8,70,217-11-14-2	
Add 75 chests of treasure just arrived from Dacca said to contain	<i>Sa.</i> Rs.	9,00,000- 0- 0- 0	
Ditto do. from Burdwan		2,43,874- 0- 0- 0	
		<hr/>	
	<i>Sicca</i> Rs.	20,14,091-11-14- 2	or C. Rs. 23,36,346-6
		<hr/>	
General Treasury	<i>Sicca</i> Rs.	11,77,132- 8- 0- 0	
Money unsorted		10,95,000- 0- 0- 0	
Ditto 42 chests just arrived under the care of I.t. Wright said to contain		10,92,858- 5- 0- 0	
Mint		2,13,309- 7- 0- 0	
		<hr/>	
			35,78,300- 4
			Rs. 59,14,646-10

Errors excepted.

Fort William,
2nd August 17 [75]

(Signed) Charles Croftes
Accomptl. Genl. to the Rev. (Dept.).

XXIV

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. I am compelled to make use of these means to inform you that both Mr. Barwell and myself have dissented from the postscript of the General Letter written to you from the Secret Department, the majority who formed that postscript having refused to suffer a short paragraph to be added to it intimating in the customary form that Mr. Barwell and myself disapproved of it.

2. The paragraph which was proposed was in the following words.

“The Governor General and Mr. Barwell disapprove of the foregoing postscript and do not concur in the sentiments expressed in it.”

3. This the gentlemen of the majority have termed entering a dissent in the body of the letter and declare it to be contrary to your orders and my own principles.

4. I shall not take up your time to assign the obvious reasons for our dissent or to prove the propriety of informing you, that the assertions of a majority of the Board were not the sentiments of the whole further than by saying that the paragraph above quoted was not a dissent entered in the body of the letter and that this mode of apprizing you of the dissentient opinions of the Board is according to the strict custom of the service, even under the present Government, as will appear by the 5th, 6th and 7th paragraphs of the General Letter by the *British King*, the 12th, 18th and 34th paragraphs, of the General Letter by the *Dutton* [and] the paragraphs of the General Letter by the *Bute* and *Pacific*, and even the 25th, 31st, 32nd and 34th paragraphs of the very letter in question of which the postscript was a part.

5. I contend with the majority on very unequal grounds, if they, because they have the power, avail themselves of it, to insert or reject what they please in the General Letters, to state facts and arguments in such a manner as shall best suit their own purposes and compel me, by signing them without any reservation of my own opinion to join in affirming facts which I do not believe, and principles which I do not avow. It was particularly unfair in the present instance because the Consultation in which my dissent and Mr. Barwell's will appear does not make a part of the public despatches. I, therefore, take the liberty to send a copy of the minutes which passed on the subject for your further information, and to repeat in the most earnest manner the request which I have made in a minute on record, that you will not form your judgement of the public dissensions on the partial reports of them in the General Letters but that you will be pleased to read them in the order in which they occur in the Consultations, with the opinion of the several members upon them at large.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect,
Honourable Sirs,

Your most obedient and most
faithful humble servant,
Warren Hastings.

Fort William,
the 9th of August 1775.

XXV

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The occasion of the address is to vindicate my character from a most extraordinary charge which was yesterday produced against me in

Council by Colonel Monson. For your information of the particulars I beg leave to send you an attested extract of the Consultation and to recommend it to your perusal in this place.

2. Colonel Monson has been pleased to deny that he either meant, or brought any charge against me, and the other members of the Board to whom he made his appeal have declared, on the words of his question, that the questions put to me by Colonel Monson did not convey a charge of high treason against me.

3. I will not dispute upon words. I will grant that no charge is formally affirmed against me, but I am certain that your Honourable Court and every impartial reader of these minutes, will understand them as intended to convey a charge of the most criminal nature, in terms which though only implying it are as intelligible as the most direct affirmations. Facts may be as strongly asserted and their tendency as pointedly declared to the understanding by questions, by allusive reasonings and other modes of insinuation, as by plain and formal accusations. Their impression is the same, though in the eye of the law they may differ but they are more difficult to be warded because of the seeming ambiguity with which they are covered and because of the necessity which they impose on the person accused of forming them into charges against himself before he can reply to them. This must be now my task. I conceive myself to be accused, 1st, of maintaining a secret connection with Cossim Ally Cawn, a man not only proscribed but known to have been the most inveterate enemy of the British nation, 2nd, of having harbored, subsisted and held a communication with his *vakeel*, or avowed representative, without the knowledge of the Board, and 3rdly, of countenancing his adherents and the enemies of this Government even in the city of Calcutta.

4. The first of these articles is nowhere expressed, but to what else can "the imputation" allude which Colonel Monson says "may be thrown on my conduct by having any connection with a person in a publick character who is the avowed representative of a proscribed Prince?" To what else can the following expression allude, "all the world knowing the connection that formerly has been between the Governor General and Cossim Ally Cawn?" or the following "I am more particularly desirous at this juncture to have this matter clearly explained as I perceive many of Cossim Ally Cawn's adherents and strenuous opposers of the English now standing forth as the arraigners of the conduct of this administration, and who receive many compliments and civilities from some of the most distinguished characters in this Presidency?"

5. Colonel Monson does not arraign me of a crime but he calls upon me to clear my conduct from an imputation which is much the same; and though the crime is not specified the context plainly speaks it and will justify me in having called it a crime not short of treason.

6. Mr. Francis is of opinion that "to receive and countenance a Vakeel from a Prince at War with the India Company or their Allies, is not an Offence, that would, as far as he understands Law, fall under the

description of Treason" which he had before said "could only be committed against his Majesty's Person." This may be a true interpretation of the law but will not acquit me of the Guilt which every honest man will ascribe to me in his heart if I shall be found to have betrayed the trust reposed in me by plotting with the enemies of the state, whether it appertain to the King or to the Company. It is not for me to determine on whom the sovereign power of this country depends. An offence against that power is a crime against the state. It is a crime against the King from the fountain of whose authority all the powers of the state originally flow.

7. The story on which this charge is grounded is in a few words as follows: A few months ago Kereem Oolla, the *Vakeel* of Cossim Ally Cawn, came to me with a verbal representation which I had not then leisure to attend to and I directed him to come again. I have seen him once or twice since but had little conversation with him. A week or ten days ago he brought me the petition which appears at the head of the enclosed minutes which for the reasons I have already assigned, I thought it incumbent on me to lay before the Board. He at the same time represented the distressed condition of his own circumstances in such terms as excited my compassion and I gave him the trifling sum which is mentioned in his examination, little suspecting that while I intended only an act of charity I was committing a sin against the state, or abetting a traitor.

8. I shall not deny the connection which formerly subsisted between Cossim Ally Cawn and myself while he was the Nabob of these provinces. It is as well known to the world as the little advantage which I made of it. More I shall not say on this subject, unwilling to revive the remembrance of the calamities of his government, or to awaken the unhappy dissensions which attended them.

9. It is scarce possible that you should read without alarm the declaration made by Colonel Monson that "many of Cossim Ally Cawn's Adherents and strenuous opposers of the English are now standing forth as the Arraigners of the conduct of this Administration." What ideas must it excite in your minds if you can believe that the very capital of all your possessions at this time swarms with the enemies of your Government who receive countenance and support from the first member of it? I am happy that the same information which conveys this alarm also provides the removal of it, and that you will at the same time find the disaffected multitude, which threatens the safety of your possessions, reduced to the single person of Coja Petruse, whose brother was in the service and confidence of Cossim Ally Cawn and was murdered by his command.

10. The title of *Vakeel* has been rendered so equivocal by some late debates upon it that I think it necessary to inform you that Karcem Oollah, the *Vakeel* of Cossim Ally Cawn, neither bore a public character nor was his avowed representative, but a mere attorney appointed by him to settle some pecuniary transactions between Cossim Ally Cawn and a banker.

11. I think it unnecessary to enter into a more minute refutation of the charge which has been produced against me. I am persuaded that what I have already said, if I have the happiness to preserve the smallest portion of your confidence, will be found sufficient to overset so extravagant an accusation. And could I suppose myself so sunk in your estimation, which your candour and indulgence to me on all former occasions forbid, as to doubt of your receiving it in that light, I fear that the most ample and clear vindication of my conduct in this instance would avail me but little in support of my general character; I am sorry to have been under the necessity of saying so much on a matter of so little direct consequence to your affairs but I was called upon, and even in your name, so abruptly that I declared, perhaps too inconsiderately, that I would make it the subject of a special appeal. While I comply literally with my promise I acknowledge the futility of the occasion, and trust, Honourable Sirs, to your feelings for my excuse, for the effect which I have suffered it to produce on my own.

12. But although I avow the unimportance of this refutation I do not regret the opportunity which it has furnished me of setting before your eyes from this small sample, the distracted states of your affairs, and the temper and objects of the members who rule your present administration in these provinces. It is evident that from the moment of their landing their aim was by personal indignities to provoke me to resign my station, and leave them uncontrouled masters of this Government, or by accumulating attempts to blast my character to effect the same end by alienating your confidence from me. These are the principles by which they judge of almost every matter which comes before the Board of whatever nature or importance, and for the truth of this I dare appeal to any section taken at hazard of your Consultations. Thus the merest trifles impede the course of business and swell the minutes of the Publick proceedings; and points of real consequence which require the coolest and most temperate deliberation and which should be directed solely to the advancement of your interests and the national honor, are warped and converted to instruments of personal violence and the support of a party system.

13. Some deference I might naturally have expected would be paid to the high authority by which I hold my present appointment, in their personal treatment of the first member of their Council, whatever wounds they might aim at my reputation or how much soever they might debase my authority. Even this respect is denied me. The whole tenor of the extract, which is herewith presented to you, affords proofs, and one most striking and indecent in, the question put at the Board by a member of the Supreme Council of India to a miserable vagrant, "whether he ever received any money from the Governor General."

14. But it is not of the injuries which I sustain only in my own person that I complain. These I disregard. They scarcely affect me. The evils which I feel are those in which my credit suffers with your interest. I have seen all the labours of my former administration rendered abortive, and my measures repealed, for the sake of condemning the principles on

which they were formed. Letters from all quarters lie for months unanswered because the time of the Board is occupied in collecting proofs of my demerit, and of the virtue of my adversaries in detecting it. The business of every department stands still though the Board meet four days at least, in every week, and I sit in them all a passive spectator without the power of giving motion to your affairs, or for any other purpose that I know but to be a butt of everlasting contumely. The Provincial Councils wanting the confidence of their rulers suspend the most trivial matters for reference to the Board, and the contagion of the capital has already infected some of them with the spirit of discord, to the irreparable hurt of the collections, in the want of dispatch and regularity which is inseparable from a divided administration.

15. The springs of government may yet operate for some time longer by their original powers but there is a period at which, unless new movements are given to them, they must cease to act and the whole machine fall into disorder. It is I fear impossible for your commands to arrive in time to prevent the danger. They may, if decisive, apply the remedy to it. I again earnestly entreat that your commands may be speedy and that they may be decisive. Prompted equally by duty and gratitude I have hitherto resolved to bear my part in this distracted scene, and if I live I will see the end of it.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,
Honourable Sirs
Your most obedient and most
faithful humble servant,
Warren Hastings.

Fort William,
the 8th September 1775.

XXVI

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors, etc.

Gentlemen,

1. I must now lay before you the reasons which oblige me to address you in a separate letter, and make it my most earnest request that you will not only receive them with condour and indulgence but that you will consider the substance of the enclosed papers with your most serious attention.

2. The Governor General having declared on the seventh instant that he considered the questions put to him by me, in that day's proceedings, as amounting to a charge against him of a crime not short of high treason; and having put a stop to the public business of a presidency in order to give himself time to address you on the subject, I flatter myself I shall not be thought unreasonably troublesome in thus intruding myself for a few moments on your more important occupations with a view to

prevent any unfavorable impressions taking place which might otherwise arise from a partial representation of this affair.

3. It will appear from the Proceedings that I put to the Governor General two questions which occurred to me as naturally arising out of the business before the Board. On the most mature deliberation I continue fixed in my opinion of the propriety of my conduct. First, in the faithful discharge of the duties of the distinguished station I have the honor to hold in this country; second, in order to give the Governor General the earliest and fullest opportunity of elucidating a subject from the general complexion of which unfavorable conclusions might, as the affairs struck me, be drawn by persons uninformed. These two questions were followed by a third which arose in consequence of one being put to me by the Governor General.

4. In order that you should more fully comprehend the force of the following observations I beg leave to refer you first, to the Governor General's introductory minute and next to the *arzee* of Kurreem Allee. I shall then quote the questions abovementioned as they are short and will not take up much of your time, and of following each of them with my reasons in support of the two propositions on which I have grounded my opinion above stated.

“Whether Kurreem Allee Cawn, who represents himself to be Vackeel of Cossim Allee Cawn, late Nabob of these Provinces, and
 Question 1st who was proscribed by public Proclamation had his (the Governor General's) permission to come to the Presidency?”

The situation in which Cossim Allee Cawn stands towards the East India Company is too well known to require any comments. He is an open and declared enemy, drove out of the provinces by force of arms after having created a dangerous and bloody war, a price set upon his head; and excluded the dominions of our neighbouring ally Sujah-al-Dowlah by a public treaty still subsisting with his son and successor. Can it be doubted then that it became the duty of the administration of this Presidency, on their first receiving information of the *Vackeel* of such a person being resident here to enquire whether or no permission had been given nor his coming, surely it cannot. The *Vackeel* of a Nabob or Rajah, being, as I understand the word, a person to be considered as a Resident, duly authorised by letters of credence to transact business for his master with the government where he resides, and who is usually received in that light by the Chief Magistrate of Government. If such a person, therefore, I beg leave to observe, had come with permission it was necessary for administration to be informed upon what political principle it had been granted him and to answer what public purpose. If he had not, it became equally necessary for them to know it that they might deliberate and determine on the proper mode of treating him. It would be taking up time unnecessarily, which is not my view, to use further arguments in support of a proposition so self evident. The Governor General having answered this question in the negative, but further saying he understood

such person had been here some years (in which, however, it is observable he does not say when he first knew, he was come or on what occasion.)

“Whether the Governor General knows with whom he (the Vackeel) has lived during that time and who has subsisted him.”

Question 2nd

I conceive it almost unnecessary for me to assert, and still more to use any arguments to prove, that I was not acting out of the line of my duty, as a member of the administration of this Presidency, to make the enquiries contained in this question in order to collect, as far as might be, such information as might lead to a discovery of the connexions, business and designs of a person falling under the description before given. This would as I conceive be thought the duty of administration in any country where the government is established upon the most antient, secure and permanent footing, how much more so then must it be in this where our authority is of so modern a date, where that person who disputed not only it but also our very existence in the country by force of arms, murdering such of our unfortunate countrymen as fell into his hands, is still in being, together with most of his principal adherents, and is moreover the very person whose *Vackeel* is now the subject of inquiry. In a country so remote from our native one, where the native inhabitants are in number greatly more than ten thousand to one European, and who are besides universally known and acknowledged to be a people of the most subtle and refined cunning, of the deepest intrigue, and amongst whom plots, assassinations and revolutions have been both more frequently and successfully planned and executed than amongst any other in the known world. If it was consistent then with the duties of my station to make the inquiries before mentioned the first part of my original proposition is thus far proved. To prove the second it remains for me to shew that the Governor General was the proper person of whom to make such inquiries, and this I conceive he was for the following reasons. First, that as the person who received the *arzee* from the *Vackeel*'s own hands and introduced it in Council he might be presumed best able to give some account of its author, for which reason I should have made the like inquiries of any other person who might have introduced it, even had he been the most obscure individual. Secondly, that as Governor General he ought, and must be presumed on all occasions, to have the earliest and best intelligence of all suspected persons within the limits of the Presidency and the more especially so in this case in particular, as by his answer to the first question he appears to have known that this *Vackeel* had been resident here some years, and therefore, as I submit it to you, gentlemen, might well be presumed to have made such inquiries, at the time he received that information, as I, in the proceedings of yesterday, made of him.

“Whether the Governor General thinks a proscribed Prince has a Right to send a Vackeel to reside here. as the Governor General has represented in one of his former Answers, to his knowledge some time, without his having mentioned it to the Board.”

Question 3rd

This question arises out of, and is in consequence of, the Governor General's answers to the former ones, and that at the time I put such former ones I did suppose either that this *Vackee* had had due permission for coming in that character to this Presidency, for which if he had I doubted not but that the Governor General would be able to give a sufficient reason or if he had not I presumed the Governor General had informed the Board of his coming so soon as he had been informed of it. Had either of these been the case by giving the Governor General the earliest opportunity of publicly stating the same his conduct on the occasion might, as I conceived, have been freed from every imputation which might otherwise have been thrown upon it while either of these matters remained any way in suspense.

5. If the Governor General's answer did not come up to my expectation in either of the above particulars, did I, for that reason, become reprehensible for having asked the questions or he for not satisfactorily answering them? He did not, however, as I conceive, so answer them; wherefore I gave him a further opportunity; and that too the only one remaining, as the matter then struck me, by which he might still place his conduct in a favorable point of view, for there might perhaps be substantial reasons, however they might militate with my ideas, which the Governor General might have it in his power to give, for his having received advice of such a *Vackee* being resident at the Presidency without his permission and not having communicated the same to the Board. I also at his desire acquainted him immediately with the real object which induced me to put those questions, for which I refer you to the part in the Proceedings directly following my third question.

6. Having thus gone through the three questions put by me to the Governor General, applying to each such reasonings as will, I flatter myself, to you seem fully sufficient without troubling you with many others, which might be brought in support of them, to establish each part of the original proposition laid down by me in the introductory part of this address, *viz.*, that it was proper for such questions to be put, first, in discharge of the duties of the station in which I have the honor to stand toward the Honorable East India Company; and secondly that they were equally proper in order to give the Governor General an opportunity of throwing lights upon a subject from which conclusions unfavorable to him might be drawn.

7. You will permit me here, gentlemen, to assure you that I have acted on this occasion in such manner as I ever shall, while I have the honor to continue in your service, wish every member of this administration or others who have a right to enquire into my conduct to act towards me; that I shall ever think myself indebted to the person who gave me a candid opportunity of accounting for my public conduct in whatever part of it may seem to require explanation; and that if ever I complain it will only be for slanderous aspersions (should I ever lie under any) secretly propagated, by base and narrow minded men, to answer

particular purposes.

8. Having hitherto confined myself to my own questions, I shall conclude this address with such observations as are naturally suggested from the Governor General's answers and those of the *Vackeel* Kurreem Allee, on his examinations before Council, from whence collectively taken, it appears that the *Vackeel* had come to this Presidency without the Governor General's permission, that he has been resident here seven years, that he made himself known to the Governor General 5, 6, or 7 months ago, that the Governor General had since given him a hundred rupees towards his support and lastly, that the Governor General instead of giving such answers as might have been expected from my third question, in order to have evinced the propriety of his conduct to the Board in the first instance (a thing to which I should have hoped, he would not have been indifferent) and to you, gentlemen, in the regular channel in the second, breaks out into invectives against me, alledging that I have arraigned him of a crime *not short of high treason* and thus instead of freeing himself from an imputation, which may perhaps be reflected upon him, of at least an irregular discharge of his duty he gives notice that he shall address you, gentlemen, in order to exculpate himself from a charge which has never been brought against him by me, or I believe ever thought of unless in his own breast.

9. I leave it to you, gentlemen, to determine which conduct would have been most proper, observing only that to me it seems somewhat strange that instead of pursuing the former plan of conduct in endeavoring to acquit himself of a *real imputation* he should take measures to acquit himself of a mere ideal one which never either has been nor, as I conceive, can be brought against him. This he can best explain, and I hope will to your satisfaction, together with his meaning, in alledging, that I have arraigned him of a crime (to use his own words) "*not short of high treason.*" In the catalogue of crimes every one in my ideas, which is not of that species, falls much short of it in enormity.

10. I beg leave next to observe that what he alledges in respect to me is not well founded, either in principle or practice, and first that it is not so in principle, in as much as to me it seems inconsistent with every principle and a contradiction in terms to assert that the bare asking a question, which arises from a matter under consideration in Council, is exhibiting a charge; second, in as much as if there really had been a charge it could not as I conceive, amount to high treason, and thirdly as to my observations of its being contrary to practice I will, by way of elucidation, suppose a matter to be agitated from the general contexture of which charges, of what nature soever, be brought against one of the parties would not the most sanguine friend of such person confident in the integrity and honor of his principles and candour, put to him such questions as might tend to a full explanation of the subject and his consequent exculpation? Ought he not if conscious of the propriety of his conduct to thank the person who should give him such an opportunity instead of his attributing his so doing to unfriendly motives? Surely he ought, and that is really the

case every day's practice, I beg leave to contend, fully evinces and confirms. For these and the precedent reasons, therefore, it is difficult to determine from whence the idea of high treason first arose, but as nothing to warrant it is either expressed or implied by me it is, I submit to you, gentlemen, fairly allowable, in argument to conclude, that the questions did not sit easy on the Governor General's mind, which if really so, I shall be extremely sorry for; but that conscious himself of an impropriety of conduct, he either purposely or mistakenly wished to avoid the true grounds of the inquiry and to justify himself on such as had never anywhere been suggested, unless in his own breast, expecting thereby, as may well be supposed, that he might be able to divert the attention from the true and substantial cause of complaint (if he was conscious of any) from which he might foresee some difficulty in acquitting himself, and that the same would be swallowed up and lost in the superiour degree of enormity contained in false and ideal one, from which there would be no such difficulty. How far the hasty and undisguised workings of the Governor General's mind may have tended to enable you, gentlemen, to fix with any degree of precision your opinion on his then feelings, in regard to his own conduct, you must determine.

11. I must observe the only question put by the Governor General to the deposed Nabob's *Vackeel*, "are you a Vackeel of State, or a Vackeel for private Business?" The answer is, "The Nabob Cossim Allee Cawn, sent me to Boolaky Doss who was his friend to receive money from him", upon which the following remarks seem to occur. First, that a person coming in the character before mentioned from a Nabob, late in the most exalted state in these provinces, and being introduced to the knowledge of the Council by the Governor General, must necessarily, till the contrary is made to appear, be presumed to come in a public capacity; and that the contrary did not appear till after my questions, and consequent minutes which fully accounts for my calling him a public *vackeel*. Second, supposing the fact to be, as I will readily admit it might, that the Governor General when he came to the knowledge of this man's residency here, about seven months ago, was informed that he was and for some years before had been a resident for private business, *viz.*, for the receipt of money on his master's account to a very large amount, which according to the Governor General's own ideas is the legal property of the Honorable Company but which might notwithstanding in the intermediate time have been all received by him and conveyed away, it still makes the propriety of the Governor General's conduct, on the occasion, the more irreconcilable to my ideas, of the duties of his station. First, that he did not then minutely enquire into every particular in which the private business of such a person, who was here without permission, did consist. Secondly, in that he had not, for the reasons before given, in like manner enquired into all his private connections but for what appears to the contrary had remained even to this day unacquainted with these last mentioned circumstances. Thirdly, in that he had not given notice to the Council,

of what he had so obtained a knowledge of, immediately on his becoming acquainted with it; the designs of such a person privately resident here without permission, were as I conceive, much more necessary to be guarded against than if he had openly come in a public character; and, therefore, the suffering such a *vackeel* privately to remain here, for such a length of time, without any precautions being taken to obtain the necessary information of his conduct and connections seems to me a circumstance much more wanting explanation than if he had been a public *vackeel*.

12. I submit to you, gentlemen, that my duty to the East India Company, in order to obtain for them the earliest and fullest information on a subject which to me appeared sufficiently interesting to merit the inquiry, required this conduct of me, on the one hand; and that a real wish to give the Governor General an opportunity of accounting, if he could, for a conduct which while unexplained might subject him to unfavorable and, I trust, to unmerited imputations, required it of me, on the other.

13. Whether I am culpable, or otherwise, for asking the question of the Governor General, either for his conduct on the subject, or in the Proceedings in Council, remains with you, gentlemen, to determine. Whatever may be the result of your deliberations you will give me leave to assure you that so long as I have the honor to continue in your service I shall upon all occasions act to the best of my judgement, upon the truest principles of public utility, unbiassed by interest, uninfluenced either by friendship, affection, prejudice, or party, or by any other motive, save that of honorably obtaining your approbation of my conduct, which I shall ever wish, my actions, alone, may be the test.

14. The Governor General having declared that he shall complain of me to His Majesty I have enclosed a copy of the Proceedings of the 7th instant and of this letter to the Earl of Rochfort, Secretary of State with a letter to His Lordship, a copy of which I herewith send you; I must request you will be pleased to forward it to His Lordship that he may not form his opinion on an *ex parte* representation of this affair.

I have the honor to be gentlemen,
Your most obedient, and most
humble servant,
Geo. Monson.

Calcutta,
September 8th, 1775.

P. S. Since I wrote the above the Governor General has consented to the proceedings of the seventh instant going by this conveyance, I therefore, do not enclose you a copy of them.

G. M.

XXVII

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The majority of the Council, in the letter addressed to you from the Revenue Department dated the 16th instant, having expressed as the unanimous request of the Board their desire that "if you should agree with them in Opinion that the Supreme Court of Justice have exceeded the limits of their Jurisdiction, and invaded the Powers vested in the Governor General and Council," in the release of Cumal O'Din Cawn, "you will lay a State of our proceedings before the King's Ministers," I think it my duty to make this separate representation of the same subject to your Honourable Court, and to add my request that it may accompany those proceedings if you should judge them of sufficient importance to merit such a reference. I have already recorded my dissent from the letter. Neither the sentiments which it contains nor the form of it are mine; but it bears the signature of my name and may deceive those to whom the official forms of your Government are unknown with the belief that it was written with my participation.

2. I shall not take upon me to enter into a vindication of the conduct of the judges in the release of Cumal O'Din. This office they will undertake for themselves if it be necessary but I think it proper to inform you that I have not the most distant suspicion either that your rights or your interests are likely to suffer by the instance in question, either in its immediate or future consequences.

3. I beg leave to lay before you the history of this transaction from its commencement. I shall be as concise as possible.

4. Cumal O'Din was the farmer of Hidgely. Sookdeb Mullick was his security. Bussuntroy (who was in effect the real but concealed proprietor of the farm) became the *bakke adur* (or under farmer) and *arzamin*, or counter security, for Cumal O'Din to Sookdeb Mullick.

5. In the month of September 1774 Bussuntroy took the entire charge and direction of the farm into his own hands. His *vakeel* was presented by Cumal O'Din to Mr. Dacres and Mr. Lawrell who were the presiding members of the Calcutta Committee, in whose district the farm lies, in presence of the provincial Dewan Gunga Govind. He informed each of those gentlemen separately that he had paid the rents to that time on behalf of Bussuntroy but that Bussuntroy would now pay them himself and be answerable for all demands of Government on the farm of Hidgely, from the commencement of the lease.

6. This transaction does not appear upon the Committee Proceedings, probably because it was a matter in the ordinary course of business, but I venture to assert it as a fact of which I have the clearest evidence: The enclosed copies of two petitions addressed to the Committee by Bussuntroy afford a strong presumption of the truth of it, and if your Honourable Court should judge it necessary to ascertain it by further proofs Mr. Lawrell, who is in England, will no doubt remember the transaction if it actually passed and answer any enquiries which you may be pleased to put to him concerning it.

7. From that time Bussuntroy had possession of the farm, collected the rents, paid the *kists* (or installments) to Government, and all the demands of the Committee were invariably made on him only till the month of May. In all that time Cumal O'Din never interfered in the collections, never paid a rupee, was never called upon for payment, not ever appeared before the Committee as the farmer of Hidgely.

8. I must beg leave in this place to make a short digression because the subject may be perplexed without it.

9. Besides the farm of Hidgely, the rents of which consist partly in ready money and partly in salt, Cumal O'Din had the contract of the Teeka collarrees of that district, that is works where salt is manufactured by hired workmen belonging to other districts, independent and unconnected with the farm. He has been occasionally called upon as the Teeka-Contractor, never as the farmer. As General Clavering has indirectly charged me with having interested myself in the behalf of Cumal O'Din, because he had been the principal evidence in two late trials, I will join both transactions in what remains of this narrative and leave it to you, Honourable Sirs, to judge whether I have supported the pretensions of Cumal O'Din, because of the evidence which he has given, or whether he has been persecuted and oppressed because of that evidence.

10. On the 19th of April Cumal O'Din made his complaint to the Chief Justice against Mr. Joseph Fowke and others.

11. On the 24th Mr. Vansittart and myself were bound over to prosecute on that complaint.

12. On the 27th the Committee ordered their accomptant to prepare the account of Cumal O'Din's farms.

13. On the 1st of May the account was laid before the Committee and transmitted by them to the Board with their opinion that the farm ought not to be continued in his hands.

14. On the 12th of June the Board instructed the Committee to make a demand of Cumal O'Din for the balance of that account and report his objections.

15. On the 30th of June Cumal O'Din sent in his reply to the Committee and referred them to Bussuntroy as the principal, insisting that he had not the least concern in the farm.

16. On the 10th of July the first trial of Mr. Joseph Fowke and others for a conspiracy was concluded by a verdict declaring them not guilty.

17. On the 11th of July Cumal O'Din was called before the Committee for the first time since the month of September 1774 as the farmer of Hidgely. His *vakeel* was on that day confined and remained so during the second trial.

18. On the night of the 14th of July Ram Chunder Sein the provincial Dewan caused the *vakeel* to be tied up in the *cut-herry*. The next day he was released in consequence of a complaint made to the Judges of the Supreme Court. On the same day (the 15th of July) a verdict was

given in the second trial declaring Mr. Fowke and Maha Raja Nund Comar guilty of the conspiracy.

19. On the 16th of July Cumal O'Din himself was arrested by order of the Committee but allowed to go home every evening with four *harcarrahs* as guards attending him.

20. On the 25th he was committed to custody in the house of the Committee and remained in that state till he was brought up by a writ of Habeas Corpus before the Judges of the Supreme Court, and on the 9th or 10th instant, after a hearing, discharged by them on giving bail as has been set forth in the letter from the Board.

21. Mr. Cottrell, the President of the Committee, in his examination before the Board on the 25th of July and 13th of September acknowledged that a transfer was made of the farm by Cumal O'Din to Bussuntroy in September last, that the rents from that time were invariably demanded and received from Bussuntroy, and from him only till the late claim made on Cumal O'Din, and that every adjustment of accounts in that time was made with Bussuntroy and none with Cumal O'Din. He indeed declares that the Committee regarded Bussuntroy only as the agent of Cumal O'Din, and when asked why the Committee changed their former practice in making the late demand on Cumal O'Din instead of Bussuntroy assigned this as the reason for it, although no demand had been previously made on Bussunt Roy, the refusal of which might have justified the change, and the same reason, if it were a valid one, ought equally to have obliged the Committee to make all the prior demands on Cumal O'Din which had been made on Bussuntroy.

22. For proofs of these facts I refer to the enclosed papers of extracts of those examinations. I shall waive others.

23. My opinion of this transaction, regarding it only in an official light, is this :

24. From the time that Bussuntroy had the possession of the farm and was admitted to pay the rents of it, even though not declared the principal by any formal or public act, he was the principal by the rules and practice of the country, the security I conceive to have been responsible in the second place and Cumal O'Din in the last.

25. The instances of securities who hold farms and are immediately accountable for the rents of them are innumerable. Few men of credit either from superstitious motives or to cover their names from the discredit which may attend the rejection of their proposals, or the failure of their engagements, take farms but under the appellation and obligation of securities. Rajah Kissenchund is a recent and weighty example of this practice. His son Shoowen Swochund is the nominal farmer of Nuddea. He is only the security. Yet the Committee have from the commencement of the lease made their demands on him and treated with him only as the real possessor of the farm.

26. Many instances might be collected of *kutkeenadars* (or under farmers) and some even of *arzamins* (or counter securities) who act and are

admitted as the responsible persons. I shall content myself with mentioning two in each relation, both appertaining to the Calcutta Committee.

27. Collipersaud is the farmer of Mysodell. Binarissy Gose is his *malzamin* or security, Ranny Janneeky is the *kutkeenadar* or under renter. The Ranny and Benarissy Gose are in possession of the farm. The Ranny's *vakeel* attends the Committee to answer all the claims of Government on his mistress and on her failure the security is next made answerable.

28. Zein al Abdeen is the farmer of the 9 anna division of Tumlook, Locnaut Nundee is his *malzamin*, Bowanund is the *kutkeenadar* and Cundrop Doss his *arzamin* or security for Bowanund to Locnaut Nundee. Cundrop Doss though his concern in the farm is originally only of a private, not of an official, nature, yet acts and is considered as the real farmer; his *shicdar* collects the rents and he himself is personally answerable to the Committee.

29. In both these instances the farmers and securities only are bound by formal obligations. Yet in both the real and immediate responsibility rests on persons who derive neither trust nor authority from any authentic grant of Government but only from presumptive engagements and the custom of the country.

30. This practice is founded on reason and is conformable to justice. The dues of Government can only be paid from the actual collections. If the farmer was left too long at liberty there would be a great risk of his embezzling or dissipating them, the private fortune of the security may answer for making good any common deficiencies but will seldom be found a sufficient security to Government against any extraordinary failure, nor indeed can they justly require it of him unless they support and enforce his lawful claims on the farmer. For these reasons it is the duty of the collector to keep a constant and strict watch over those who are in immediate possession of the collections, and when at any time their obligations to the farmer have been transferred by him to the Government, they are the persons first responsible; the farmer will then become their security and may be called upon, when the customary securities have been ineffectually tried, to enforce the payment from them.

31. If it shall appear to you from the above arguments and facts that Bussuntroy was the person to whom the Committee ought to have looked as the accountable renter of Hidgely it will follow of necessity that the imprisonment of Cumal O'Din for his debts was illegal. Cumal O'Din appealed to the superior Council from this act of the Committee but met with no redress. He made his last appeal to the Judges of the Supreme Court and obtained from them only a temporary discharge on giving bail for his future appearance. Whether the Judges in this instance exceeded the prescribed limits of their authority, or whether this was a case which came especially under the scope and design of their institution, I shall not presume to determine. This much is certain that it makes no alteration in the rights of the Company or their power to enforce those

rights. Cumal O'Din though enlarged is still a legal prisoner and compellable to appear whenever he shall be regularly called upon by the Committee. If the Board continue of opinion that they should still pass by Bussuntroy and their security to make their demand on Cumal O'Din I presume that they may their right in the Supreme Court either by pleading to the jurisdiction of the Court or by such othe process as the forms of the law may require, but I shall never subscribe my assent to a resolution so violent as that of acting or directing others to act in open defiance of the decrees of the King's Court, nor to a maxim so dangerous and subversive of all order as that which you will find implied in the late Proceedings; that it is the duty of this Government to oppose with force the illegal acts of the Court of Judicature, because I cannot conceive that there is any competency in the Board to judge of their acts or that the worst effects of an irregular exercise of the powers vested in the Supreme Court can equal the consequence of an attempt to subject them to the controul of Government.

32. But without insisting further on the illegality of the rigor which has been exercised against Cumal O'Din, I must observe that it was directly contrary to good policy to pass by the security and possessor of the farm, and to press their demands on him. They are men of known and sufficient opulence. He is an indigent man from whom no severities can extort what he has not to give. The interests of Government were, therefore, sacrificed to an useless punctilio in this case, admitting that to have been their motive. But I will even allow that he was the principal, that the proceedings of the Board against him were both necessary and regular yet there can be no excuse for stopping at him. The moment he declared himself insolvent, or refused to pay the dues of Government, both the *kutkeenadar* and the security, by the incontestable laws of the country, ought to have been subjected to the like demands and to the like penalty in case of their refusal. These remained unnoticed. I believe they are even to this time at liberty.

33. The gentlemen of the majority have unanimously declared their opinion that the Board ought to direct the Committee to take Cumal O'Din again into custody for payment of the debt due from the farm, and to give no attention to any order made by the Supreme Court or any of the Judges in matters which solely concern the revenues; but because I refused to add my concurrence to so rash a measure one of the members, Mr. Francis, withdrew his assent to it and they now accuse me of "having abandoned Your Rights" and of "having relinquished into the hands of the Supreme Court of Judicature the Government of this country." These are the words of General Clavering and Colonel Monson. Even Mr. Francis has joined in the reproaches with which I have been loaded on this occasion. The following is an extract from one of his minutes.

"If our taking no Resolution in a Conjunction of such importance should be attended with any of those fatal Consequences which I myself and othe members have foretold the Governor General will I think be in

an especial Degree answerable for them."

34. My lot would be peculiarly unfortunate indeed if I were to be made answerable not only for my own acts but for those also my constant opponents in this Government. If I have erred, which in this instance I cannot even suppose without repugnance, I have erred in judgement only and from the unalterable persuasion that an opposition to the authority of the Supreme Court of Justice would be productive of the most fatal effects to the peace of the country and to the constitution of state. They judged it necessary for the preservation of both. Why then did they hesitate to carry it into execution? The feeble negative approach to that measure by the member who first proposed it under the declared conviction of the absolute necessity of adopting it, will, I presume, avail them but little in the judgement of Honourable Court who will remember with what little regard to my concurrence and with how persevering an unanimity, they have hitherto acted in points of the most hazardous tendency and may be induced to suspect that they were less zealous in this instance to maintain your rights than eager to throw on me the odium of having betrayed them.

35. I know not what may be the consequence of the resolution since passed in the Consultation of the 15th instant. They appear to have authorized the Committee to take Cumal O'Din again into custody, and have given them assurances of all the support and protection that can *legally* be afforded to them.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect,

Honourable Sirs,

Your most obedient and most
faithful humble servant,

Warren Hastings.

Fort William,
the 22nd September 1775.

XXVIII

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. I turn with pleasure from the endless work of controversy to a subject which excites my warmest sentiments of gratitude, and I humbly beg leave to make use of this occasion and this mode to express them in return for the complete testimony which you have been pleased to give of your approbation of my services in your General Letter of the 3rd of March, received by the *Godfrey*. So seasonable a declaration of your favor at a time when every artifice is used to draw upon me your displeasure, and when every measure which has now obtained your sanction and confirmation is objected to be as injurious to your interests and even

a disobedience of your commands, is both an ample retribution for the disgusts which I have sustained in the course of the last twelve months and affords me the strongest confidence to support the part which I have yet to act in the interval which remains for the arrival of your decisive award on my conduct and on that of my opponents.

2. It has been with great reluctance that I have hitherto yielded to the necessity of troubling you with so many repeated appeals from the personal attacks upon my reputation which have been almost the sole object of the gentlemen who since the first meeting of the new Council have formed a decided and combined majority in it and I now gladly receive the commands expressed in your letter by the *Godfrey* as an acquittal from all claims of that nature with respect to the measures of the late Administration. Those measures, your confirmation of them, has now stamped for your own, and, unless my judgement greatly deceives me, they will receive equal approbation from the public voice of the nation, whose honor and your interest it has been my constant and, I hope, successful study to promote.

3. Flattered as I was by the contents of the abovementioned letter it could not fail to affect me with equal disappointment and concern to find, by your dispatch of the 7th of March, that your fears were then so reasonably excited by the supposition that we had suffered our troops to pass the prescribed line of their operations and cross the Ganges, an apprehension which I conceive has arisen from a negligence of expression in the letter of the Select Committee to your Honourable Court, dated the 24th of August 1774, wherein it is said that on the requisition and urgent solicitation of the Vizier, Colonel Champion had consented to march forwards with the Brigade under his command from Bareilly, the place first destined for their cantonments, "to the City of Bissouly near the Centre of the Rohilla Country on *that* side of the Ganges." By *that* side of the Ganges was meant the Bissouly side, and the same on which our army had continued from its first entrance into the Rohilla dominions, and on which, if you will please to recur [*sic*] to the Select Committee's letter abovementioned, you will find they gave you the most solemn assurance it should remain whatever powerful motives might occur to encourage a deviation from this resolution. And these assurances they most scrupulously adhered to as well in consideration of the necessity of fixing a precise limitation to the extent of their operations as in submission to your commands, although they entertained in their own minds no apprehensions that the safety of these provinces could be in the smallest degree endangered by the absence of one brigade, however remote, having the strongest conviction that the two remaining brigades were not only sufficient to protect the Company's territories from sudden incursions but were also able to repel the best concerted attacks of the most formidable country powers.

4. If to this explanation be added the consideration that the motive for putting our army again in motion in pursuit of the shattered remains of the Rohilla forces was to produce the immediate accomplishment

of the war before the return of the fair season, which might afford an opportunity to any other power to interrupt us, and that it was attended with complete success. I doubt not but the late Administration will stand acquitted of any intention to extend their military operation beyond the Ganges, or to any distance which might alarm the Company for the security of their own valuable possessions.

I have the honor to be with the most grateful and respectful sentiments,

Honourable Sirs,
Your most obedient and
most humble servant,
Warren Hastings.

Fort William,
the 19th of November 1775.

XXIX

To the Honourable the Court of Directors, etc.
Gentlemen,

1. I have received the letter which you have been pleased to direct your Secretary to write to me, of 3rd March, in answer to that which I did myself the honor to address to you from Madeira. On the subjects which I submitted to you on that occasion, namely, the expediency of an appointment of an Adjutant General and the granting to me the same allowances for field or travelling charges which you had thought proper to give to Sir Eyre Coote, I must beg, you will be persuaded, gentlemen, that had I not been convinced of the necessity of the first, and the equity of the second request, I should not have presumed to have preferred them to you. In respect to both of them, I shall certainly acquiesce with whatever may be your pleasure. If the latter had been granted, it would not have had yet any effect, since it has been impossible for me to move from Calcutta. Had the former been allowed I should have found great ease and conveniency in the laborious task I have undertaken, and your service would have been better executed.

2. The military duties which fall to the share of an efficient Commander-in-Chief comprehends all the functions which are exercised in England by the war and ordnance officers, together with that of an Adjutant General. The comptroll of the Boat Establishment must be superadded to all these. When our Public Proceedings shall have shewn you that [. .] days in the week have been devoted to your Civil Department you will form some judgement, how the great detail consequentially dependent on, and connected with so many various branches of service, could not be executed with sufficient punctuallity without some official assistance. The custom of your service had been to comply with all indents when the signature of the

Colonels of brigades or the Governor's was fixed to them. Hence arose the bulk of the contingencies. I have before said that they amounted to near as much as the whole aggregate expence of the establishment. The propriety of them, any more than the quantities, or the prices of the things furnished were never examined. This labor which can only be performed by references to returns, to standing orders for granting allowances instead of contingencies, to the fitness of the demand and the value of the articles in different parts of the country was more than I could undertake by myself, however necessary I found it to be in order to check the expences of your army. It was therefore with a view to procure the assistance and joint labors of gentlemen, whose official situation would be useful to me, that I proposed the establishment of the Board of Ordnance. By the rules of its institution no expence can be incurred for contingent supplies, no stores of any kind can be issued without a previous indent countersigned, as formerly, by the commanding officers and passed by the Board. The regulations which it has formed are drawn out under distinct heads, and may easily be referred to. The prices of each species of stores comprehending a prodigious variety of articles are fixed by the known rates of the country; tables of these are sent to the Muster Masters who now supply those contingencies which were formerly in the hands of the paymasters, but latterly in those of Mr. Maclean. The giving the supply of stores to the Muster Master, seemed void of all objections from any connection of interest that can subsist between these two officers. If any mistake has been made in the valuation of the articles they shall be corrected as we obtain lights on those heads. From these and other precautions which the Board of Ordnance has taken to subject as well the contingent supplies to regulation, as the issuing of military stores from the magazines it is presumed that no inconsiderable saving will be made. I am fearful however it will not be felt the first year. Your whole army does actually, or at least will do so in a short time, stand at the highest expence to which it is possible it can be exposed. The 2nd Brigade has been two years in the field and the first has been as long at the Presidency; a relief of both is, for obvious reasons, become requisite. To effect this relief the [three] brigades must change their respective [st]ations. The 3rd which was at Dinapore is now on its march into the province of [?] to relieve the 2nd which will march to the Presidency to the place of the 1st Brigade, which by the same rule will march to Dinapore. Thus the whole army enters at the same time upon the increased allowances of either full *batta* or full double *batta*. The whole must be supplied with tents, oxen for carriage and draught, and a [.] the extra allowances of lascars, coolies, etc. Foreseeing the weight of the expence which must necessarily fall on your military establishment by this general movement you may easily imagine I would have avoided it, if it could have been done without evident injury to your service. I am interested more than anybody in the liquidation of your bonded debt, as your Consultations will shew you, but I find in this country, more than in any other, that the habit of long residence in

any fixed station is very pernicious to the troops. Many of the battalions to be relieved serve on the frontier stations where the Commanding Officer is the collector of the revenue. At the Presidency the officers unavoidably incur expences which they cannot support, and the private men shut up in a small space within the walls of the Fort, grow dissatisfied and desert, and by degrees loose that activity which can only be maintained by marches, and by the exercise of the field. Notwithstanding the magnitude of the operation of the general relief to be effected from every quarter of your province, and at the distance of eight hundred miles from the Presidency, I am willing to hope that the total expence will not be so considerable as at first sight it might appear, and will not be felt on the general state of your affairs. The European regiments move without their artillery and military stores, and consequently the heaviest part of that usual expence will be entirely saved, of carriage and draught cattle, of lascars, *bildars*, coolies etc, the furnishing of which will now be confined to the troops alone. But at all events, the additional subsidy obtained of 6 lacks a year from the Nabob of Oude will more than counterbalance the extraordinary expence, whatever it may be. I am afraid, however, I shall be disappointed in part of the saving which I had proposed making in executing this relief. I had directed that the brigade in the field should march down the river opposite to Illahabad to meet the 3^d Brigade at that place, but so dangerous a mutiny has broke out in the Nabob's army, threatening either his life or his liberty, that it seems to Mr. Bristow that it would but be adviseable for the brigade to quit their present station to meet the other. The difference therefore of time, from Illahabad, where the rendezvous of the two brigades was to have been, to the present station of the second Brigade will not be more in going and returning than a month or six weeks, during which the full double *batta* must continue to both brigades.

3. When I am on the subject of the expences of your army I can not avoid mentioning one which has been carried to an excess that required restraining. The officers who have been tried at court martials have thought that they were at liberty to summon as witnesses whomsoever they pleased, and to protract the court martials by introducing into their defence extraneous matter entirely foreign to the objects of it, and I must say, that the court martials, instead of discountenancing such proceedings, have shewn, but too much, that they were not displeasing to them. The officer tried has commonly attempted to recriminate on his Commanding Officer, and the court martials being composed of six captains and six lieutenants many of the latter have seemed to consider the temporary mortification of their Commanding Officer as a kind of retaliation for whatever subjection they may have been under to him. Three instances of this kind have happened since I have had the honor of commanding your army, one in the field, and two at Berhampore. One of these was for the trial of six officers of a sepoy battalion, for confederating together by an agreement, to send their immediate Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Goddard, to Coventry,

or otherwise to have no intercourse with him but on matters of duty. As the battalion which those gentlemen belonged to was of the third Brigade, then at Dinapore, it was thought proper to form the court martial of the officers of another brigade for which reason the prisoners were ordered to Berhampore, where half of the first Brigade was stationed, to be there tried. I have not got an exact list of the number of witnesses who were summoned, but those who were examined amounted to twenty [.....] who by the usage of the service are allowed boat hire, and full *batta* as being on duty. The Council, seeing what was intended, endeavoured all they could to prevent any more witnesses being summoned than were really necessary to support the prosecution, and for the defence of the prisoners. They ordered the court to sit previously to examine both the prosecutor, and the prisoners in regard to the point on which they required the attendance of Colonel Ironside who then commanded at the station of Dinapore. He represented that he had not been present with the battalion when the dispute, which gave rise to the complaint, happened, that it would be very inconvenient to him and to the service to quit his station, without any apparent or probable use he could be of, to elucidate an affair in which he was totally unconcerned. The court martial did, however, think his evidence would be necessary and did order him to appear at Berhampore. The court martial from these circumstances and from a quarrel which arose between themselves and their Judge Advocate, against whom they made a complaint to the Council, continued sitting, to the great detriment of the service, between three and four months. The only expedient the Governor General and Council could fall upon, in this business, was to appoint another temporary Deputy Judge Advocate and for the future to order that they will not pay the expences of witnesses attending court martials on the part of the accused, excepting at their own discretion on the examination of facts. If this detail of military occurrences, which I have the honor to send you, shall exceed the bounds which you mean to prescribe to my duty I shall with pleasure conform to your intentions and will no more trespass on your patience.

4. Major Johnson, who commanded your troops at Bencoolen, is come here to complain to me of the hardship that he has suffered from your President and Council at Fort Marlborough in having dismissed him the service.

5. From the representation he has given to me of his case, and after weighing the 4 different charges collectively, on which he was accused, I must confess, there does not seem to be sufficient grounds to justify the rigor which that Council has shewn him; from whence one might conjecture that what the Major asserts is true, that the real cause of his dismissal is not avowed. Their charge against him consists of four heads.

1st. That he had given out military orders to Captn. Hutcheon, and four subalterns without previously acquainting the Governor with the report delivered in consequence of [.....] orders.

2nd. Remitting punishment of a regimental court martial, approved by him and confirmed by the Governor, without making the Governor acquainted therewith.

3rd. His arresting, and confining an officer above six hours, and afterwards releasing him of his own authority without making a report to the Governor.

4th. His procuring a paper to be signed by four officers, in a clandestine and underhand manner, with an intention of injuring the Board with the Court of Directors.

Lastly his having been formerly guilty of actions in direct breach of more than one article of war.

6. If I may presume to deliver an opinion on a matter which I understand has been referred to you by Major Johnson, with all the papers, I should think that on the first head there can be no offence in a commanding officer giving an order to visit the Fort and hospital. though no report of this visit was made to the Governor.

2nd. As the confirming the sentences of regimental court martials is always vested in the Commanding Officer the remission of the punishment ought to be in him likewise; the Major declares that he never understood but that this power was clearly vested in him.

3rd. It appears that two officers had had a quarrel, and for fear of the consequences, which might ensue, the Major sent a serjeant to one of the officers in the evening to tell him that he was not to go out of his room till the morning when he was to call on the Major. This is called arresting and confining.

4th. The procuring a paper to be signed clandestinely. The paper in question is merely a certificate that the soldiers were not more addicted to drunkenness, or more irregular, than when the Major arrived, but on the contrary that they were better disciplined. There seems to be no harm in such a paper in whatever way it was procured.

7. The last charge is so general that it is impossible for the Major or any other man to reply to it; if he had been formerly guilty of actions in direct breach of more than one article of war, it was the duty of the President and Council to have tried and to have cashiered him.

8. The departure of General Smith for England has deprived your service on the Coast of a most excellent and experienced officer. I believe he is better able to inform you of the real state of that country with respect to the proper precautions to be taken for its defence than any man in England. Sir Robert Fletcher has acquainted me that he has assumed the command there.

9. We have not had any accounts from Bombay for a considerable time, but letters have lately been received here overland from Colonel Keating mentioning that he proposed moving his army a little to the southward of Surat, there to wait the issue of Colonel Upton's negotiation. As the last letters that we received from the ministers at Poona expressed displeasure at Colonel Keating's remaining on the Murrattah territory it

would not be surprizing that seeing him advance to the southward they should march troops against him and so frustrate the effect of our endeavours to re-establish peace.

10. On enquiry, I find that the gunpowder, which you sent out annually, is so much damaged that it is generally obliged to be made over again, and further, that the quantity is very small in proportion to the consumption of this Presidency; I think the quantity sent out is 100 barrels, the invoice price of which is £5. 10s. 8d., or as it is calculated in the Storekeeper's office, CRs. 43.3. The consumption of Bengal is near 3,000 barrels, the quantity made in the country about [...] (of that I have not yet received an accurate account). The powder which has been manufactured in the Company's mills has never yet been valued, but it is supposed to have cost not less than the Europe powder, though not so well manufactured; the residue has been purchased in the country. The Board of Ordnance is now taking measures to have the whole quantity required manufactured here, and to have it stove-dried instead of the usual method in India of drying it by the sun; without such precaution, whatever care be taken of it in this damp country, it very soon grows soft and useless.

11. The number of drums sent out this year being no more than 16, and the number wanted for the supply of the army being very considerable, seeing that drums had been given before my arrival to the sepoy battalions instead of tom toms, we have directed a quantity by way of experiment to be made up here. The arsenal and all the magazines in Bengal are now surveying and an exact report shall be made to you of them.

12. Amongst the returns, which I have the honor to send you, of the troops on this establishment, of that on the coast of Choromandel and of Fort Marlborough you will find an army list of the officers on this establishment rather different from that which you have had before, as it shews in one view the rank which the artillery and engineer officers hold in the army, and consequently it will prevent the mistakes which you have been liable when you made appointments of officers of infantry by not seeking both together on the same list according to the dates of their commissions.

13. I must now crave your indulgence for a liberty, I am going to take, in resuming a subject on which you have already decided. In the 68th paragraph of your General Letter of the 16th March 1768, you have restricted the promotion of the lieutenant colonels of artillery to that rank, beyond which, you are pleased to say that they are not at any time to rise. Permit me to represent to you the prejudice which I think your service suffers by restricting the rank of the officers of any corps to such limitation. The ambition of military men can only be nourished by the hopes that they entertain of one day arriving at the highest rank. Destroy that hope and you extinguish the spirit of the service. By abridging the promotion of the lieutenant colonel you equally damp the hopes of succession in all the officers of a

corps which has signalized itself equally with the other corps of your army. Those officers see their junior officers in other corps rise before them and consequently command them on all occasions from that time. If services in other countries may serve as an example to yours, that of the King's, and I believe every other in Europe allow their artillery officers to rise to the highest ranks. It is true they are not permitted to hold regiments but the practice seems not founded in justice or propriety. The artillery officer is as regularly bred to the discipline of the infantry as the infantry officers are with this difference in their favor that they are obliged professionally to study geometry and mechanics. I might alledge, in favor of my argument, that your late Commander-in-Chief in this country, Sir Robert Barker, I believe, was bred in the King's artillery, and, I am sure, you will agree with me that he has done credit to your service. I would therefore recommend that the lieutenant colonel of artillery might succeed to the command of a brigade in his succession of rank. This would of course occasion a promotion in the corps of artillery which according to the present regulation can never happen but from the death or resignation of the Commanding Officer.

14. With regard to the state of the troops and fortifications at Fort Marlborough I can only refer you to the account I have received of them from the temporary Commanding Officer, Captain Hutcheon, a copy of whose letter I beg leave to enclose. Of the 303 effective Europeans you will be pleased to observe that there are about fifty whose contracted time of service would expire last July, and the remainder, and likewise the sepoys, the Commanding Officer speaks of them, as being almost intirely unfit for service. Some better regulations for the military under that Presidency seems absolutely requisite, and particularly that they should be restrained from the free use of spirituous liquors which I am afraid cannot be executed by the Commanding Officer, whilst an advantage is derived in the settlement from the quantity of liquors which may be sold there. The fortifications, I find, are still in ruins though by the returns there appears to be a large quantity of advance which must become a prey to the first invader of the country. I am informed that the old fort is commanded by eminences very near it; if that be so, and that the fort if re-established would not be able to resist a brisk attack both from the sea, and land together, I would beg leave to suggest a thought to you for the safety of the Company's property, and their servants, whenever you should think proper to take the defence of that place into consideration, whether it would not be more advisable to chuse an inaccessible spot of ground whereupon to erect a fort in the passes of the mountains for the inhabitants and slaves to resort to. The French practice this method in all their islands in the West Indies, and I am informed they are now doing the same at Mauritius. They know by experience they cannot defend their ports nor prevent a landing. The success in an enemy in either one or the other occasioned the loss of the colony, without they had an assylum to retire to. The patience of the enemy has been here put to the test, and

frequently their troops have been the victims of their perseverance. The island of Guadeloup was saved twice in the last century by this method of defence.

15. The accompanying accounts of the gun powder which has been sent to Bengal in each year for four years will shew you how much you have diminished the quantity usually allotted to this Presidency.

16. Without we can fall on a method of increasing the quantity usually made here and diminishing the consumption, our magazines must of course be immediately drained.

17. It is certain that the consumption of powder at this Presidency has been preposterously too great; you will scarcely imagine that the allowance granted for five brigade exercising days, together with proper flints and thread to each brigade costs fifty thousand rupees. I will send your Honourable Board a particular account of this expence, and the regulations I have formed, which will make a diminution in the expenditure of some hundred barrels.

18. I could have wished to have sent you an exact list of the recruits arrived here this season, but as those which come on *Godfrey* have not as yet been examined I must defer it to another opportunity.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, and
most humble servant,

J. Clavering.

Fort William,
24th November 1775.

XXX

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors, etc.

Gentlemen,

1. Herewith I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of my letter of the 24th November last, sent by the *Salisbury*.

2. Immediately after the departure of that ship I was under the necessity of submitting to the Governor General and Council a complaint made to me by Major Hessman, of several irregularities committed by Colonel Ironside, the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Brigade.

3. They are briefly these, that he had ordered eleven lascars to be discharged but to be returned compleat, and on command on the returns, and their pay to be delivered monthly to the Major of Brigade.

4. That he had ordered the bullock contractor to pay to him the subsistence of two elephants, one camel and eight draft bullocks.

5. That although he had drawn two months allowance for boats to go from Berhampore to Dinapore for himself, Rs. 1,860, and his aide-de-camp, Rs. 182, he had indented likewise for budgerows and boats from the contractor.

6. That he had drawn 16 rupees per mensem from a man for the privilege of selling arrack to the soldiers at Dinapore.

7. That he had drawn the pay of a non-effective trumpeter from each battalion of sepoys of his brigade under pretence of forming a band of musicians for the regiment, although the band had not existed for many months.

8. That he had drawn for Rs. 995.15.9 on the Paymaster on account of boats employed for the brigade, on its march from Berhampore to Dinapore, out of which he had only paid Rs. 342.14 a. for the boats, that he had taken Rs. 420 himself, had given Mr. Berrie, Deputy Commissary, Rs. 100, and had reserved 133, as Mr. Berrie alledged, for Colonel Goddard but which money still remained in Mr. Berrie's hands as he had never yet mentioned the matter to Colonel Goddard.

9. That he had of his own authority discharged two European soldiers and had returned them dead on the returns.

10. As a previous step to any proceedings on these complaints I communicated them to Colonel Ironside and desired he would give me his answer specifically to each article. His answer I laid before the Board together with the complaints. He endeavoured at first rather to palliate the offences than to deny them, but at last having thrown himself on the mercy of the Board and desiring that he might not be exposed to a public trial the Board consented themselves with passing the resolutions, which you will find in the enclosed paper, and refering the final decision on his case to you, gentlemen.

11. The majority of the Board had two objects in view in their determination of this business.

1st. To correct the abuses that he had committed by ordering all the money, which had been so unjustly taken, to be refunded, and by publicly reprobating them in the general orders of the army.

2nd. To avoid furnishing fresh matter at this time by a trial at the Presidency, for the factious party to foment the dissensions which had but too much interrupted the course of publick business.

12. The annexed is the copy of the orders which have been published on this occasion in the army.

13. An application having been made to this Government from Mr. Bristow in the name of the Nabob of Oude, that seeing he had complied with the wishes of the Board in dismissing Monsieur Gentil¹ and all the other foreigners in his service, and that he could not depend on the fidelity of his troops unless they were headed by European officers, he requested, we would furnish him with a certain number to command his cavalry, his infantry and artillery.

14. The Board, after maturely weighing all the reasons for and against the measure, unanimously assented to it.

15. The resolutions of the Council, which contain the orders that have been given to carry the measure into execution, are herewith annexed.

16. The recommendation of the officers for this service falling to

my lot, the plan I adopted was, in the first place, to reappoint all those who had been appointed to that service during the life of the late Vizier, by the Governor General, the next, such of the senior officers who offered themselves for it, and lastly to provide for such, who being recommended to me as deserving of favor, I could not be of use to in any other way. Amongst the others I recommended Captain Webber, my Aide-de-camp, who not being able to avail himself of that rank which his commission in the King's service gives him, it became necessary to give him a commission in yours, as well to entitle him to receive his pay as to command those who are below him in rank. The commission that is given to him bears the same date as that he holds in the King's service, but it being of a later date than all those which are held by the officers appointed with him into the Nabob's service does not affect any one of the captains. The duration and extent of the commission is likewise limited to the time that he is employed with the Nabob of Oude's troops. By these limitations I have removed every possible objection to Captain Webber's appointment in India and I flatter myself it will not be disapproved by you.

17. In regard to the measure itself of supplying the Nabob with officers to command his troops, I will, without reserve, lay before you every reason that induced me to give my consent to it. I have already mentioned the Nabob's plea, that we had deprived him of the service of the foreign officers and that he could not depend on his troops without he had Europeans to command them. The late Vizier had left him an army of an hundred thousand men amongst which there were, as it is said, eighteen battalions as well disciplined as any of those belonging to the Company. The territory which the Vizier had acquired in 1773 and 1774 had furnished him with a revenue equal to any prince in Indostan : from Kora and Illahabad he obtained a receipt of sixty-five lack, from the Duab, which he conquered in the winter of 1774, fifty-four lack and from the Rohilla country ninety lack, which, joined to the revenue of his antient dominions of Oude, and Banaras, made the amount considerably above three crore of rupees a year.

18. It is very well known that whatever court the Vizier lately paid to this Presidency with a view to his own aggrandisement, he secretly carried on a correspondence with Monsieur Chevalier by the means of Monsieur Gentil. This man, connected with persons at Banaras and at Calcutta, furnished all the clothing for the Nabob's army from Chandernagore. Monsieur Chevalier supplied the Vizier with officers as he did likewise Nudjuf Cawn. The Chavelier de Modave² went from Chandernagore, with other French officers in 1774, to Lucknow with Monsieur Chevalier's recommendation, and afterwards to Agra which place Nudjuf Cawn had just taken from the Jauts by the assistance of the Vizier. Nudjuf Cawn entertained at that time, and still entertains, Sumroo and Madec³ in his service, each of whom commands independent bodies of troops from six to eight thousand men. I have stated these particulars to shew you, gentlemen, that it was on the strength of the connections which Monsieur

Chevalier carried on with the Vizier and with those officers in the service of Nudjuf Cawn, that he amused his court with his schemes of invading Bengal in conjunction with any armament which France might fit out to enter the Ganges.

19. Under the persuasion therefore that I am, that by adopting the measure which we are now carrying into execution for supplying the Nabob with officers, all the apprehensions will be removed which might be entertained of the ambition or power of the present possessor of Oude, or even from his successor, whomsoever he may be (particularly as we have reduced his revenue twenty-three lack by the cession of Banares and Gazzipore), and that if care be taken that our intentions be not evaded, all Monsieur Chevalier's political and commercial schemes in that country will be entirely defeated.

20. In an economical light I hope there will be some advantage in exonerating you of some supernumerary officers, and likewise in making room for a promotion of the cadets who have been four or five years in that station.

21. Notwithstanding every means have been used by the Council and myself to get the military accompts of last year made up it has not been possible to effectuate it. The Deputy Paymaster of the 2nd Brigade has not yet sent to the Presidency the accompts of the year 1774. I cannot, therefore, ascertain the amount of the military expences from the 1st May 1774 to 30th April 1775; but by the drafts of the different Paymasters, which may be liable to many errors, but however that may be, I am afraid, it will be found that your military expences have rather encreased within that period than decreased. The drafts of the Paymaster General on the Treasury amount to

	1,05,98,980
Received of Mr. Bristow by the Paymaster	
of the 2nd Brigade	21,30,981
For military stores at the Presidency	5,81,420
	<hr/>
	1,33,11,381

It should however be remarked that there are bills to the amount of 20 lacks, included in the drafts of the Paymaster on the Treasury, on account of the preceding year, but which not being paid till after the 1st May 1774 swells this year's accompts with the expences of the former year. This is a reason assigned by the Paymaster for the encreased expence, but as I imagine the same irregularity must happen every year and that bills for the expences of 1775 will not, in like manner, be paid till after the 1st May 1776, no great variation can happen in any one year's accompts by this circumstance.

22. Till the army accompts are settled annually, and an auditor appointed to inspect and arrange them under distinct heads, we must ever remain in the dark on what articles the excess of the expences prevail.

23. I took every step in my power last year to obtain the accompts of the 2nd Brigade; repeated orders went from the Board to that purpose and even a commission of field officers was appointed to examine the accompt of the sums which had been received from the Nabob of Oude for the subsidy.

24. Colonel Stibbert has now taken the command of the troops in the field, and from the assurances he has given me I have great dependance on his vigilance and activity that he will never suffer the accompts to run in arrear again. It is so much for the interest of the agents to keep balances in their hands that unless Government was invested with more coercive powers than it is at present possessed of, I am afraid it will not be in the power of administration to compel the servants of the Company to be more exact in the performance of their duty.

25. By the estimate of resources and disbursements made out by the two accountants on the 1st January 1775 you were made to understand by the reduction that had taken place in your military expences they would not amount to more than eighty-two lack inclusively of the brigade in the field. Either therefore there must have been some great error in that estimate or that the reduction, which had taken place, did not really affect the gross amount of the expence, or that the allowances, which had been since made, have been equivalent to the former establishment to which of these causes may be attributed the supposed excess of 51,11,381 on that estimate, I am really at a loss to assign that to which it may be ascribed. All I can answer for is that since the appointment of Colonel Dow to be Commissary General and the establishment of the Board of Ordnance, I am sure very great savings have been made in that branch, where they alone can be made, namely, the contingencies.

26. Wherever the establishment has been encreased, I have made it an invariable rule, that the propriety and expediency of the encrease should be authorised by the Governor General before I gave my consent to it. But the amount of all the augmentation must be of very little moment; the greatest has been the raising of two companies of Invalids for the garrison of Buxar, the number of those at Patna not being sufficient for that duty and for the service of the collection. Whenever the brigade returns within the provinces they shall be reduced, but till then the expence of them should be considered as defrayed by the advantage of the subsidy.

27. Although I have the authority of the Accountant, the Paymaster and the Military Storekeeper for the enormous sums which, it appears from their accompts, have been issued to the army in one year, yet I flatter myself when the accompts come to be settled, that there will be found some error in the drafts made on the Treasury by the Military Paymaster. At all events I beg leave to send you a copy of his letter to me on the subject, together with the Accomptant's and Military Storekeeper General's accompts.

28. The establishment of colonels which by your former orders was limited to three is now by the arrival of Colonels Stibbert and Morgan

augmented to five. Colonel Stibbert has been appointed to the command in the field with the appointments which Colonel Champion enjoyed; to Colonel Morgan we have assigned the pay of a full Colonel.

29. We have had many representations from the officers, who have suffered in their ranks by your last orders, that a preference should be given to the cadets of your nomination to those made by the two Governors Verelst, and Cartier. We have however carried your orders into execution, with some exceptions in the corps of artillery, where some cadets of your nomination had refused the offers that had been made to them to enter into the artillery, but had altered their minds, after some of the Governor's cadets, who had previously accepted the offers, had obtained commissions in that corps. Considering those circumstances, we thought, that the cadets, who had refused those offers had forfeited the priority in rank to which they would have been entitled had they accepted them.

30. I took the first opportunity in my power to provide for Capt. Cook whom, in your Genl. Letter of the 3d March, you had recommended to the Governor General and Council. He is made Barrack Master of Dinapore.

31. The boat contractor has, till lately, eluded every attempt I had made to be informed of the number of boats employed supernumerary to the establishment. Many of these were kept up with the 2nd Brigade in the field, and others at Dinapore, but as I do not know that he was furnished with any regular authority for employing them, the Commissary General has received orders not to pass those extra boats in the accompts. As soon as I was informed of this irregularity, I took care to establish such checks at every station as I flatter myself, at present, there is not a single boat exceeding the establishment, which is not authorized by the Quarter Master General for special service.

32. There has been kept up in the field a number of lascars &c. &c. exceeding the establishment about 8000 rupees a month. As the order for their reduction had never been executed by the preceding Commanding Officer in the field, Colonel Gailliez says, he imagined they were allowed when he succeeded to the command, and I understand he thinks them absolutely necessary, in which case the establishment has been reduced low. How far this representation is just, it is impossible for me to determine; his reasons for it will be examined before the Board, and admitted if valable [valid?] or rejected if otherwise.

33. To reduce the expences in the field, as much as possible, we have ordered, that two cannon, of eighteen pounders, which were always dragged about with the army with all their stores, and spare carriages, should be sent to Chunar, and the establishment belonging to them struck off.

34. One of the greatest articles of the military contingencies is the expence of tents; yet it not being possible to dispence with the want of them, since on every emergency they are required, the expence under proper restraint is certainly necessary. because were the troops unprovided

with them. they would be absolutely useless.

35. I have often had it under consideration to make allowances to the officers for tents, as it is practised in the King's service in the time of war. But the difficulty in doing it resides in determining whether the allowance should be annual or only when the corps move, and in what greater proportions to be allowed to a regiment in the field, to one, that is in quarters. To adjust these proportions, to keep every corps constantly provided with tents, and to limit the extravagant superfluity allowed to all the field officers of dining tents and sleeping tents, has been a business that neither my time, nor my experience of the service in this country has yet either permitted me to attend to, or even to ascertain, by other information. I must make the same apology for being, as yet, entirely ignorant of the hospital expences. To have assisted me in such examinations, an Adjutant General of approved honor and abilities would have been of the greatest utility to me.

36. As I am fully convinced of the benefit that will accrue to your service in procuring the best gunpowder that can be made, and that the difference in the price between what is good and indifferent will be amply compensated for, in the greater utility of the former and in its better preservation in the magazines, the Board of Ordnance has, at my suggestions taken the matter frequently into consideration.

37. To evaporate the fixed salt in the gunpowder, which is the cause of its dissolution, we determined that the saltpetre, of which it is composed, should all be double refined, and we then fixed the proportionate quantities of it, the sulphur and charcoal, together with the species of wood, of which the latter should be made in order to give it the degree of strength and durableness that is required to make it perfect. Afterwards, we agreed to adopt a plan much recommended by Dr. Franklin for the preservation of gunpowder in magazines, namely, to line the barrels with tinfoil which is impervious to moisture. These previous steps being entered upon we called upon Mr. Stewart, whom you have appointed your Superintendant of the Powder Works, to communicate to him our design and to know if he would undertake to manufacture all the powder after the manner proposed, and at what price. We at last agreed with him on that footing, that he deliver 1,500 barrels, of one hundred pound each, at 30 rupees per barrel, at the Fort, from his present mills, subject to the proof that we should require, and when the new mills which are now erecting at about six miles from Calcutta are finished, 3,000 barrels; that he should make the barrels of the best teek timber, with copper hoops, and lines with tinfoil, for 13 rupees per barrel. After this agreement was made with him and the articles drawn out for signing, one Mr. Nixon sent proposals to furnish the powder for 23 rupees and 17 rupees for the barrel. The Board entered his letter on their Proceedings and held an extraordinary meeting to take them into consideration, the Governor General being present, when it was unanimously agreed not to accept them. They considered that Mr. Robert Stewart held his appoint-

ment from you, which could not be set aside, that the terms were already concluded with him, and that even if the proposer had been judged competent to have undertaken such an engagement, which might be doubted from the manner in which the tender was made, yet in so essential a supply as gunpowder no risk of failure whatever should be run.

38. I now acquit myself of the promise I had the honor to make you in my last, to send you a particular account of the quantity and expence of the powder consumed by the troops, with the regulations I have made to reduce the consumption still allowing a larger proportion for the cartridges than is allowed to the King's troops.

39. There is a hardship to which the ryots are subjected to from the army, that it would give me great pleasure if I could remedy. When your troops come into settled quarters, all the carriage and draft bullocks are discharged ; when they move out again, or even a part is detached it is necessary, most commonly, to press the cattle from the poor people. They are prohibited by their religion to sell them, wherefore necessity obliges us to take them by force. It is true, they are paid for them, but the value in money is no compensation to them. They lose what they revere and what is necessary for the cultivation of the land. After being in our hands they lose their value, and will not sell again for a quarter of the sum which we paid for them. When the contractor has two, or three months notice given him, he can purchase them in some of the distant districts, but besides the expence of keeping them so long it is not always that we can foresee the necessity of a regiment's moving so long beforehand.

40. Considering the industry of the attorneys, and the disposition of the Court of Justice, it is surprising that the Company's servants have not yet been prosecuted on this real grievance.

41. In the appeal, which Mr. John Stewart, the late Secretary to the Council, has made to your Court, he has thought it necessary not to confine his animadversions to the matter for which he was dismissed from his employments, but, in the malignancy of his heart he has brought a charge against me for illegally disposing of your money in travelling charges, contingencies and direct presents.

42. The reply I entered on our Consultations on the 8th instant will, I hope, convince you of my readiness to submit to any enquiry that you shall please to establish, to authenticate the facts or disprove them ; but till that can be done, I hope you will please to accept the declaration of the Governor General, whose opinion you will, I believe, admit, gentlemen, cannot be suspected of any bias in my favor. His answer to the question I put to him on this subject is herewith annexed.

43. Justice both to the Company and to me requires that Mr. Stewart should be called upon to point out the persons I have so benefited, and the sums I have given them. I believe that it will be found that he himself is the only person who has received any unwarrantable mark of favor with my sanction, but which, as I have proved in my minute

which I have above alluded to, was obtained surreptitiously by the assurance he gave us that his whole income was only 5000 rupees a year, and that his views were confined to the office of Secretary. For the entire vindication of my character I propose sending to England, an authenticated copy of Mr. Stewart's letter to be laid before Counsel for their opinion, in what way, I can obtain reparation for the injury he has done me. This step, I flatter myself, will meet with your approbation.

I have the honor to remain, with the greatest respect,
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, and
most humble servant,
J. Clavering.

Fort William,
January 17th, 1776.

NOTES

NOTES

. LETTERS FROM COURT

No. 1.—6 January 1773.

1. **Mr. Francis Fowke** (p. 1)—Son of Joseph Fowke and a protégé of the majority, Francis Fowke was appointed Resident at Benares on 16 September 1775. Hastings, feeling secure in his position after the death of Monson, recalled Fowke from Benares in December 1776. However, on 9 March 1780 the Court of Directors reinstated him to his former position which he continued to hold till 1786, when he retired and went back to England. *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, Vol. VII, p. 27, f.n. 2.

No. 2.—11 February 1773.

1. **China trade** (p. 2)—Since 1683 the East India Company had regular trade with the Chinese empire and established a factory at Canton, the only port at which the Chinese Government allowed Europeans to trade. The main items of this trade were tea, silk and nankeen. Being a lucrative trade, the Directors encouraged its enlargement. Parkinson, *Trade in the Eastern Seas, 1793-1813*; Peter Auber, *An Analysis of the Constitution of the East India Company*, pp. 148-49.
2. **From the abovementioned circumstances** (p. 3)—This refers to the troubles in America which were to end a little later in the famous 'Boston tea-party'.
3. **manifested** (p. 3)—Recorded in the manifest or list of cargo for the use of customs officers.

No. 3.—7 April 1773.

1. **Prohibited goods** (p. 7)—Owing to agitation by English calico-printers and silk-weavers the use of Asiatic silks and printed and dyed calicos was prohibited in England by an Act of Parliament in 1700. These goods could, however, be brought in for re-exportation. *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, p. 110.
2. **Messrs Wiss and Robinson** (p. 8)—James Wiss and Pickering Robinson were sent out to introduce the Italian method of winding silk in Bengal. The superiority of the new method consisted in the fact that 'at one operation from the pod it is capable of producing silk of any

letter at the same time that its length and colour are preserved and it is free from the foulness which is peculiar of the country silk'. N.K. Sinha, *Economic History of Bengal*, Vol. I, p. 179; *Fort William-India House Correspondence*, Vol. VI, pp. 7-9.

3. **this valuable branch of our trade** (p. 12)—The Directors encouraged the trade in raw silk despite its being unprofitable at times, because they considered it a useful channel for the remittance of surplus revenues. In order to improve the production of raw silk they imported, in 1771, silk worms from China. During the years 1770-75, the Italian method of winding silk was successfully introduced. By 1776 'Bengal silk drove all competitors except Italian and China silks, out of the English market'. L.S.S. O' Malley, *Murshidabad District Gazetteer*, p. 126; Sinha, *op. cit.*, pp. 184-85.
4. **Goorka Rajah** (p. 12)—The reference is to Prithwi Narayan Sah who brought the whole of Nepal under his sway and established the state of Nepal as we know it today. *Fort William-India House Correspondence*, Vol. VI, pp. 367-68.
5. **Mr. Robert Palk** (p. 14)—Robert Palk was suspended from service in 1768 'for the most barefaced frauds in the Burhampore Cantonment'. He, however, offered to refund the sum he had overcharged and was allowed to continue in the service until the receipt of further orders from the Court. *Ibid.*, Vol. V, p. 473.
6. **Reverend Mr. Yate** (p. 15)—He came out in 1768 as tutor to the son of Sir Charles Hudson, Commander of the *Talbot*. He was appointed chaplain at the Presidency but the Directors, when they heard of it in 1769, ordered him to be discharged and sent back to Europe. *Ibid.*, pp. 237, 453.
7. **Rear Admiral Sir Robert Harland** (p. 16)—In 1769 the Ministry appointed a plenipotentiary with power to negotiate and conclude arrangements with the Indian princes on behalf of the Crown. As by the 11th article of the Treaty of Paris the British Government was concerned about the settlement of arrangements between the French and the English in India, they appointed, without the knowledge of the Company, Sir John Lindsay the first plenipotentiary. In 1771 he was succeeded by Sir Robert Harland. J. Mill, *The History of British India*, Vol. IV, pp. 48-9, 57; *Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, pp. 278-79.

No. 4—16 April 1773.

1. **carrying into execution those essential objects** (p. 26)—To remedy the evils of the Dual Government established by Clive the Court of

Directors decided to place the internal administration of Bengal and the collection of revenues directly under their own European servants. In 1771, they announced their decision that thenceforth the Company would 'stand forth as the *Duan*'. On 23 April 1772, Warren Hastings received orders from the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors that Muhammad Riza Khan and Raja Shitab Rai, the *Naib Diwans* at Murshidabad and Patna respectively should be removed, that the office of *Naib Diwan* abolished and that the Company should immediately assume the collection of revenues and the administration of civil justice. G.W. Forrest, *Selections from the Letters, Despatches and other State Papers Preserved in the Foreign Department of the Government of India, 1772-75*, Vol. I, pp. 5-7.

No. 6—10 December 1773.

1. **Major Stainforth** (p. 33)—Captain, later Major, John Stainforth was tried by court martial in 1766 for having used threatening expressions against Clive and for proposing to take his life. As he had not joined the 'combination' against Clive, he was only cashiered and ordered to be sent to England. However, on his expressing contrition he was readmitted to service in 1771. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant-General and died in 1781. Broome, *History of the Rise and Progress of the Bengal Army*, pp. 607-08.
2. **as prescribed by the deed** (p. 35)—This refers to the deed of agreement entered into between the Company and Lord Clive on 6 April 1770 for establishing a fund for the relief of European military officers, soldiers, and their widows. Auber, *op. cit.*, pp. 184-85.
3. **commission on the revenues** (p. 37)—In 1765, Clive created a monopoly of the trade in salt, betelnut and tobacco placing it in the hands of a body composed of covenanted servants divided into four classes according to seniority. The creation of this Society of trade, as it was called, was in contravention of the Directors' orders of February 1764 prohibiting their servants from participating in the inland trade, but it was justified on the ground of meagreness of their servants' salaries. The Directors held to their orders, and the Society was abolished on 1 September 1768. They, however, directed that a commission of 2½ per cent on the net revenues of Bengal should be distributed among certain civil and military servants in certain stated proportions in order to give them a reasonable encouragement to exert themselves with zeal and alacrity in their several departments. Mill, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, pp. 289-92, 310; Auber, *Rise and Progress of the British Power in India*, Vol. I, pp. 169-70.
4. **cause against Mr. Forbes** (p. 38)—As *Bakhshi* of the Berhampore Cantonment Forbes had made considerable overcharges. He was

consequently prosecuted in the Mayor's Court and dismissed from service in 1768. *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol. V, p. 479.

5. **pilot service** (p.39)—The pilot service was introduced as early as 1668. There used to be twelve pilot vessels in the English service besides a Dutch and a French vessel in time of peace. The English brigs or snows were constantly stationed at the ten-fathom line for conducting ships safely through the shifting sand banks of the Hooghly. Parkinson, *op. cit.*, pp. 31, 114.
6. **marine.....service** (p. 39)—An adjunct of the Navy, the Marine Service was required to perform multifarious functions such as protection from pirates, defence of trade and possessions in time of war against the Company's European enemies, etc. It was also employed in making nautical discoveries. Milburn, *Oriental Commerce*, Vol. I, p. 270.
7. **Miguil Van Colster** (p. 40)—Bulakidas, a banker of Calcutta, had advanced a sum of Rs. 2,30,000 to the Company at Dacca in 1763, and as he had found it difficult to obtain an acknowledgment thereof in India, he had sent his attorney, Miguil Van Colster, to England to press his claim on the Directors. The attorney's stay in England having been prolonged, the Directors had advanced him £500 for his expenses, for which he gave them bills on Bulakidas. H. Beveridge, *A Comprehensive History of India*, Vol. I, pp. 21-2, 374.

No. 7—7 January 1774.

1. **Major Charles Morgan** (p. 44)—Joined the army in 1759. On 15 May 1765, he was appointed A.D.C. to Lord Clive. He was dismissed by the Board in Calcutta in March 1772. Hodson, *List of the Officers of the Bengal Army, 1758-1834*, Pt. III.
2. **Capt. David Mackenzie** (p. 44)—Commanding Officer of the detachment at Rangpur. He was dismissed from service in 1772 mainly on account of "lending Money to the *Zamindars* and Farmers of Rungpoor at a very exorbitant interest, exacting a much higher Rate of Interest than what had been settled by Agreement; and by unwarrantable and forcible Means, extorting the Payment of these Exactions, to the no less Detriment of the Company's Revenue than the Distress of the poor immediate Sufferers." D. N. Banerjee, *Early Administrative System of the East India Company in Bengal, 1765-1774*, Vol. I, pp. 343-45.
3. **payments made in the Marine Department [.....]** (p. 46)—The missing words refer to Mr. Keble who was appointed Naval Storekeeper but

had also to work as Paymaster of the Marine. See *Public Letter to Court*, 17 October 1774, para. 12.

No. 9—29 March 1774.

1. **the usual commission** (p. 51)—A commission of 2 per cent was paid by private merchants to the President on coral, diamonds and other licensed goods. *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol. III, p. 138.

No. 10—30 March 1774.

1. **to drive the Boutanners from the Rajah's country** (p. 62)—In 1774 Cooch Behar was suddenly invaded by Deo Raja of Bhutan. The Raja of Cooch Behar, through his minister Nazir Deo, asked the Bengal Government for help and offered to put his province under its control. As the Company's district of Rangpur had been frequently attacked by raiders from Bhutan, the Council accepted the offer and sent a strong force to Cooch Behar. The expedition was successful and the Raja of Bhutan came to terms on 25 April 1774. Auber, *op. cit.*, Vol. I., pp. 435-38.
2. **Morung country** (p. 63)—Territory near the Cooch Behar-Bhutan frontier. It was in 1769 that the Directors first proposed to open trade with Morung, and in their letter to Fort William dated 17 March they recommended "the Scheme of Cutting Sticks for Masts and Yards and procuring Pitch, Tar &ca." in that territory. *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol. V, p. 174.
3. **Broach expedition** (p. 65)—The Bombay Government sent a force in 1771 to enforce certain claims against the Nawab of Broach. The expedition failed, and the preparations were being made to renew it when the Nawab came to Bombay and a treaty was concluded with him on 30 November 1771. The terms given to the Nawab were not so liberal as he had expected, and on his return to Broach he proceeded to treat the Chief of the Factory there with great disrespect. In the following year the expedition was carried out and Broach was taken on 18 November 1772. General David Wedderburn, who commanded the expedition, was killed. Grant Duff, *A History of the Marathas*, Vol. II, pp. 21-2.
4. **the late Act of Parliament** (p. 67)—The reference is to the Regulating Act of 1773.
5. **account of weights.....Tower of London** (p. 69)—Samples of coins made in the Company's mints at Calcutta and Madras were sent to the Tower of London to be assayed. See *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol. III, p. 16.

6. **rupees 94,828** (p. 77)—The figure 94,828 would be correct if the proportionate value of *sicca* and *sanwat* rupees were taken at 116:110. At 116 : 111 the figure would be 95,690.

No. 12—23 December 1774.

1. **Poplar Fund** (p. 84)—Fund in aid of the hospital at Poplar in East London, established by the Company in 1627 for the relief of persons who had been employed in their Marine Service. Auber. *Rise and Progress of the British Power in India*, Vol. I, p. 158.

No. 17—15 December 1775.

1. **On comparing the statement** (p. 133)—The majority had objected to Hastings's statement of the balance in the Provincial and *Khalisa* Treasuries as amounting to over 80 lakhs on 3 December 1774, because the balance of the Provincial Treasuries had not been taken on the same date, and it was, therefore, possible that if allowance were made for transfers from one treasury to another, the balance would probably be about 67 lakhs or even less than that, say 62 lakhs. Forrest, *op.cit.*, Vol. I, pp. 206-07.
2. **Current rupees 7,10,000** (p. 134)—Current rupees 7,10,000 work out at 6,12,070 *sicca* rupees, not 5,96,400.
3. **Duty of 2½ per cent levied upon our investment** (p. 135)—By the regulations for customs made by Hastings in 1773 a uniform duty of 2½ per cent was levied on all goods, including even those for the Company's investment. Monckton-Jones, *Warren Hastings in Bengal, 1772-1774*, p. 246.

No. 20— 25 March 1776.

1. **Messrs. Motte, Fawke and Seott** (p. 147)—An exception was in favour of Messrs Motte, Fowke, and Scott by Raja Chait Singh in 1773 when he objected to the residence of Europeans in his territories. Forrest, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 53.
2. **Mrs. Hawkesworth** (p. 148)—Wife of John Hawkesworth (1715-73). Her husband was a miscellaneous writer. He is said to have succeeded Johnson in 1744 as compiler of Parliamentary debates for publication in the *Gentlemen's Magazine*. In 1755 he published in twelve volumes the works of Jonathan Swift. In 1771 he was appointed to revise and publish an account of voyages to the South Seas. He was elected a Director of the East India Company in April 1773, but died a few months later.

No. 22 —4 April 1776.

1. **Mr. Halhed's character** (p. 149)—Nathaniel Brassey Halhed (1751-1830) was educated at Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford, where he made the acquaintance of Mr. (afterwards Sir) William Jones who led him to the study of Arabic. He came to Calcutta as a writer in 1772 and, at the instance of Warren Hastings, undertook the translation of Muhammadan and Hindu code of laws from Persian into English, which he completed in March 1775. In January 1778 he published a Bengali grammar. He returned to England in 1785, was a member of Parliament from 1790 to 1795, and held an appointment in the East India House during 1809-30.
2. **The late Act of Parliament** (p. 150)—By this the Regulating Act of 1773 is meant.
3. **Donation of Sujah Dowlah to the Second Brigade** (p. 153)—In a letter dated 8 August 1774, Col. Champion informed Hastings that Shujaud-Daulah had offered seven lakhs of rupees "as a gratuity to the Brigade and for the gentlemen's expenses". The letter was laid by Hastings before the Select Committee, who submitted it to the whole Council, and the Council resolved that under the Regulating Act the amount could not be received by the army. Later, the field officers of the Brigade addressed Hastings in the matter. Hastings laid the letter before the new Council, with a recommendation that the matter be referred to the Court of Directors for orders. Forrest, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, pp. 158, 201; Strachey, *Hastings and the Rohilla War*, pp. 156-72.

No. 23 —25 October 1776.

1. **Nobkissen Moonshy** (p. 156)—Nabakrishna Deb being greatly attached to the English was made a *banian* to the Select Committee which meant that he was an agent of the Committee in political transactions with the country powers. He worked in that capacity till 1770. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, pp. 530-31.

No. 24—24 December 1776.

1. **great quantities of tea** (p. 165)—Large quantities of tea used to be smuggled into Great Britain because of the heavy duties on it. *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, p. 116.
2. **Mr. William Bolts** (p. 166)—The project of an Austrian East India Company was revived in 1775, when, at the instance of William Bolts, a discharged servant of the English Company, a charter was granted by the Empress Maria Theresa to the 'Imperial Company of

Trieste'. This Company met with indifferent success and became bankrupt within ten years. *Ibid.*, p. 116.

LETTERS TO COURT

No. 4—1 March 1773.

1. **Committee of Circuit** (p. 195)—The Committee of Circuit was a committee of the Calcutta Council appointed to tour the province and make land settlements in consequence of the Company's decision to 'stand forth as the *Duan*'. Matters relating to justice and commercial affairs of the Company were also dealt with by the Committee. It consisted of five members—Hastings, Middleton, Dacres, Lawrell and Graham.
2. **the new fort** (p. 199)—The old Fort William was abandoned after the battle of Plassey, and a new fort was designed by Clive in 1758.
3. **The Society A** (p. 204)—The Society of Trade, composed of senior servants of the Company, was appointed on 10 August 1765. It was given a virtual monopoly of inland trade in salt, betelnut and tobacco for a period of one year. In 1766 the life of the Society was extended by another year, subject to certain changes in its composition and procedure. The Society, the accounts of which were opened on 1 September 1765, is referred to in the correspondence as Society of Trade A, and that which operated in the second year as Society of Trade B. *Fort William-India House Correspondence*, Vol. VI, p. 475.
4. **the charity lands** (p. 204)—Lands appropriated for the maintenance and support of poor people or for religious purposes. Verelst remarked in a minute dated 29 April 1767, placed before the Select Committee, that the charity lands of the 24-Parganas, which should at that time have stood at some 2,00,000 *bighas*, had somehow increased to about 2,63,000 *bighas*. Firminger (Ed.) *The Fifth Report on the Affairs of the East India Company*, Vol. I, pp. cvii-viii.
5. **Charles Imhoff** (p. 210)—Son of Baron Adam Carl Imhoff, a German nobleman whose wife, after being divorced by him in 1774, became Mrs. Hastings three years later. Busteed, *Echoes from Old Calcutta*, p. 405.

No. 5—31 March 1773.

1. **reduction of the Nabob's stipend** (p. 212)—In 1772 the amount paid to the Nawab was reduced to 16 lakhs. This was the third reduction

since 1765, the amount having been first reduced in 1766 from 53 lakhs to 41 and then in 1769 from 41 to 32 lakhs. *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V., p. 210.

2. **Lord Clive's bounty** (p. 220)—A sum of five lakhs of rupees which Mir Jafar was alleged to have desired on his death-bed to be delivered to Lord Clive was constituted by the latter into a fund, to be utilised for the relief of the officers and Company's army who might be disabled by wounds or by the climate. *Ibid.*, p. 180.

No. 9—16 August 1773.

1. **Governor's absence** (p. 224)—It refers to Hastings's visit to Benares for a conference with Nawab Shujaud-Daulah, which took place in August-September, 1773.

No. 12—10 November 1773.

1. **the late distresses and embarrassment of the Company** (p. 233)—Though recently helped by the Bank of England, the Company, in August 1772, was obliged to apply to the British Government for a loan of £10,00,000. This provided a chance to the Parliament to inquire into its affairs. Two Committees—Secret and Select—made a minute examination of its administration in India, and submitted their reports which were highly condemnatory. The deficit being very large, in March 1773 the Company revised its demand and asked for a loan of £15,00,000. Parliament, however, voted only £14,00,000 on certain terms. At the same time it passed the famous Regulating Act whereby it appropriated the controlling authority to itself. The Directors found the terms 'harsh, arbitrary and illegal', but they had no alternative but to accept them. *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, pp. 181-88.
2. **before the resignation** (p. 239)—It refers to the resignation of a large number of army officers in 1766 in consequence of reduction made in the *batta* by Lord Clive.
3. **Rajah Dirridgenorrain** (p. 244)—Raja Dhiraj Narain was removed by Clive from the office of *Naib Diwan* of Bihar on grounds of mal-administration. Being consequently reduced to a state of indigence and distress, he was allowed a pension of Rs. 1,200 per month in 1769. *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol. V, p. 574.
4. **Nabob Sufraz Cawn** (p. 245)—Sarfaraz Khan, Nawab of Bengal (1739-40) who was defeated and dethroned by Alivardi Khan.

No. 14—30 December 1773.

1. **Money lately paid by the Vizier** (p. 255)—The Nawab Vazir paid 20 lakhs of rupees for the cession of Kora and Allahabad, and Rs. 1,29,834-13-3 as extra charges for the brigade. Forrester, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 53.

No. 17—15 March 1774.

1. **16th December** (p. 265)—This is a mistake for 6th January. See *Letter to Court*, 6 January 1774, para. 1.

No. 21—17 October 1774.

1. **mentioned in the paragraph** (p. 299)—The paragraph referred to is the 6th.

No. 23—4 January 1775.

1. **the office of Sheriff** (p. 324)—The letters patent establishing the Supreme Court in 1774 prescribed that Sheriff should be appointed by the Council from among three persons nominated by the Supreme Court.

No. 24—24 February 1775.

1. **At. Rs.** (p. 328)—Arcot rupees.
2. **Vestry** (p. 329)—The English parish vestry was originally an assembly of all the inhabitants of the parish for church purposes. Later, civil functions were also added to it. Calcutta seems to have been treated as a parish.
3. **state** (p. 329)—Statement.
4. **The Court of Requests** (p. 329)—The Charter of 1753 created at Calcutta a Court of Requests to try cases of debts not exceeding 'the value of five pagodas'. This Court was established with a view to providing 'a speedy remedy for the recovery of small debts'. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 572.
5. **the unhappy affair of Captain Ferguson's death** (p. 331)—The *Vansittart* sailed from Portsmouth on 3 May 1773 and reached Bombay on 16 January 1774. "Soon after leaving England a serious quarrel arose between Captain Roche, who had brought on board a reputation for strife, and Captain Ferguson, a brother officer.... This quarrel increased in virulence and intensity until they reached the Cape of Good Hope, where the ship arrived on 4 September 1773. That

evening a virulent fracas took place between the two officers at Cape Town....and during the scuffle, Captain Roche stabbed Captain Ferguson, who almost immediately expired. Captain Roche was tried for murder by the Dutch authorities, was acquitted by the Fiscal or the Supreme Judge at the Cape of Good Hope, and was permitted to proceed to Bombay by a French vessel. There he was tried by the Governor and his Council, acting as Justices of the Peace, in August 1774, and was sent to England under arrest, where he arrived in June 1775". Henry Morris, *The Life of Charles Grant*, pp. 32-5.

No. 30—20 November 1776.

1. **were prevented from . . dispensation from the act** (p. 367)—In 1772 in order to prevent great consumption of oak timber, fit for the construction of large ships of war, an act was passed (12 Geo. III., Cap. liv) which prohibited the Company from building, or allowing to be built for their services, any new ships after the 18th March of that year, and "by a Resolution of the latter date the Court decided that no new ship should be laid down for them until the tonnage of all the ships employed by them should be reduced to 45,000 tons". *List of Marine Records*, pp. xii-xiii.
2. **General Letter, dated 10th April 1774** (p. 380)—1774 is a mistake for 1771. See *Fort William-India House Correspondence*, Vol. VI, p. 108.

No. 36—23 July 1776.

1. **The treaty of peace** (p. 426)—This refers to the Treaty of Purandhar signed on 1 March 1776.
2. **treaty with Ragoba** (p. 427)—On 7 March 1775 Raghoba concluded a treaty with the Bombay Government "ceding forever to the Company, Bassein, Salsette, Jamlooseer and Orpad, with the islands of Caranja, Canary, Elephanta and Hog Island" in consideration of the military aid he was to receive from the Government. Auber, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 511.

APPENDICES

No. X—30 November 1774.

1. **appointment of Captain Brooke** (p. 494)—As the conquests which Shujaud-Daulah had made in the Doab after the retreat of the Marathas in 1773 seemed likely to involve him in hostilities with them, Hastings, thinking that 'a small partizan corps' under the

command of an active and experienced English officer would be helpful to him, had sent Capt. Brooke with a letter advising the Nawab Vazir to establish such a corps and employ Capt. Brooke to command it. The expected return of the Marathas did not take place; however, the Vazir proposed to appoint Capt. Brooke to the command of a part of his forces with Najaf Khan to be formed and employed in the manner suggested by Hastings. The Council reluctantly agreed to this arrangement. Forrest, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, pp. 123-24.

2. **siege of Agra** (p. 494)—Agra fort submitted to Najaf Khan on 13 February 1774. Najaf Khan had been helped in the siege by Major Polier whose services had been lent by Hastings to Shujaud-Daulah for survey work. *Ibid.*, pp. 189-90.

3. **answer to Francis's minute of the 31st of October** (p. 494)—Francis's minute of 31 October referred, among other things, to the question of issuing orders to Colonel Champion to return from the Nawab Vazir's territories unless the Vazir required his assistance for protecting his dominions, guaranteed to him by the Treaty of Allahabad. Francis argued that the Company should not assist the Vazir to protect Rohilkhand recently conquered by him, since the Directors "had reprobated the idea of engaging with him in schemes of conquest, or of suffering their troops to be employed in distant expeditions". He added that he was "not surprised that this consideration should have less weight with the Governor-General" who had lent his assistance to Shujaud-Daulah in spite of the Directors' orders, but he was astonished at Barwell's declaration that he saw no reason why Shuja should not be assisted in the protection of his new acquisitions. Barwell in his minute of 21 November, asked Francis for an explanation of his remark about the Company's orders having 'less weight with the Governor General', and he also observed that the majority had passed resolutions on the Rohilla war "without taking time to enquire fully into the origin and nature of our engagements with the Vazier," Forrest, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, pp. 127, 134-36.

No. XII—1 December 1774.

1. **no intelligence.....before the end of the month** (p. 503)—The contention that the letter dated 17 October was really written afterwards was not incorrect, because in the minute of 24 October 1774, prepared by Hastings for the information of the new Members of the Council, he had said, "we have been for sometime past in daily expectation of hearing that the war was brought to a conclusion, either by the

attack and defeat of the enemy, or by negotiation." Hastings admitted that a part of the letter was written after the assembly of the new Council "with a design of answering the objections which might be or had been made to the propriety of the Rohilla expedition", and that the "date was a mere form necessary to authenticate the letter" which was to be signed by the old Council. Forrest, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 191.

2. **20th of August 1771** (p. 504)—20th is a mistake for 28th. For the Court's letter dated 28 August 1771, see *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol. VI, p. 117.

No. XVII—March 1775.

1. **as they formerly did Mangalore** (p. 515)—Mangalore was taken by a Bombay force on 1 March 1768 during the Company's war with Haidar Ali (1767-69) but was evacuated in great panic in May on the latter's approach.

No. XVIII—16 March 1775.

1. **the forgery alluded to** (p. 250)—The reference seems to be to a letter received by Hastings at Madras, when his appointment as Governor of Bengal had become known. The letter, purported to have come from Munni Begam, entreated Hastings's protection against the tyranny of Muhammad Riza Khan. The Begam later denied having written the letter or authorised such a communication. Gleig, *Memoirs of the Life of the Rt. Hon. Warren Hastings*, Vol. I, pp. 494-95.

No. XX—18 May 1775.

1. **Mr. James Grant** (p. 530)—He was appointed writer on the Bengal establishment in December 1768. He embraced the cause of the majority and in 1775 assisted in the attack on Hastings. He went home in December 1776 and was not permitted to return to India. He is not to be confused with James Grant, the revenue expert, who was appointed writer for Bengal in May 1778. Firminger, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. xxx.
2. **Mohins** (p. 532)—This is a mistake for *mohirs* which is the corrupt form of *muharrirs* meaning clerks or scribes.
3. **Munny Begum the first woman** (p. 532)—The majority observed that the dismissal of Munni Begam "was not an operation of such mighty and pompous importance as he (Hastings) makes it. She is not the Nabob's mother. She is not by birth a woman of any rank, but

originally as we are informed, a slave and a dancing girl". Forrest, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 478.

4. **Deleel Roy . . . trial held upon him** (p. 534)—The majority's defence was that Dulal Ray had no excuse for extortion since the Rajshahi farm was let out to him at a considerably lower rate than to his predecessor. *Ibid.*, p. 479.

No. XIII—31 July 1775.

1. **oppression exercised on the Begum** (p. 543)—The majority in their reply said that no compulsion was used on the Begam, that "on her mentioning an intention to come to Calcutta, she had immediate permission given her to remove to this town or any other part of the province", that if Hastings had quoted the whole of the letter of Nanda Ray, "the Directors would see that it contains an account of seven lacks of rupees distributed among the Company's service out of the Nabob's treasury, and that it was strange that while Hastings employed so much time and labour to show that the discoveries against him had been obtained by improper means, he took no steps to disapprove them. *Ibid.*, pp. 479-80.
2. **Nonid Roy** (p. 544)—Nanda Ray, chief of the *muharrirs* appointed to assist William Maxwell, David Anderson and James Grant in investigating the *Nizamat* accounts.
3. **Ferralang** (p. 544)—This is a copyist's mistake for Farrahbagh, a splendid garden laid out by Murshid Quli Khan at Dahapara, then a suburb of Murshidabad. Murshid Quli Khan used to retire there along with his seraglio in the summer. O' Malley, *op. cit.*, pp. 30-31.
4. **balance made up to the latest period** (p. 553)—The majority doubted the correctness of these balances on the ground that the several balances at the different places were taken at different dates, and it was therefore possible that credit was taken twice for the same. Forrest, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 483.
5. **account current of the opium . . . in 1773 and 1774** (p. 554)—The majority pointed out that the supposed profit was only on paper, since 850 chests of opium were sent to Balambangan "where we have reason to fear it lies perishing, and that the Company will lose the sale of it entirely". *Ibid.*
6. **current rupees 59,14,646-10-6** (p. 554)—The majority criticised this balance on the ground that it included deposits and was secured through stopping the tribute to the Emperor, the pension to Muhammad Riza Khan, etc. They therefore held that Hastings had

“no claim to any merit from the existence of a balance which is created by the non-payment of the just debts of the State”. *Ibid.*, pp. 483-84.

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1. **Monsieur Gentil** (p. 589)—Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Gentil (1726-99), a well-known French military adventurer, came to India in 1752. He first served under Mir Qasim and later under Shujaud-Daulah and his successor. During his twelve years' loyal service in Oudh he endeavoured to increase French influence and hoped that a treaty of alliance between the Nawab Vazir and the King of France would be concluded. The English, apprehending a danger from such an alliance, secured Gentil's dismissal by a treaty with Asafud-Daulah in May 1775. He returned to France in 1778. He has left an interesting account of his diplomatic activities in his *Memoirs sur l'Indoustan ou Empire Mogol*. S.P. Sen, *The French in India, 1763-1816*, pp. 149-53.
2. **Chavelier de Modave** (p. 590)—Louis-Laurent Dolisy, Comte de Modave, a French military adventurer, came to India in 1773. After a few months' stay at Pondicherry and Calcutta he repaired to Lucknow where he entered the service of Shujaud-Daulah. Shortly after the Nawab Vazir's death he went to Delhi and secured a profitable appointment in the Imperial service. Failing to get his salary regularly he quitted the Emperor's service and joined Madec in whose camp he stayed for five months, down to the siege of Dig. Finding his lot no better he left Madec's service. Shortly afterwards he proceeded to Hyderabad hoping to secure an employment under Nizam Ali Khan. But he met with no success there and having fallen ill suddenly, he retired to Masulipatam where he died on 22 December 1777. *Ibid.*, pp. 143-49.
3. **Madec** (p. 590)—Rene Madec, one of the most famous French adventurers, came to India in the time of Dupleix. He was taken prisoner by the English after the fall of Pondicherry in 1761. After his release he moved from court to court until in November 1772, on Chevalier's persuasion, he entered into the service of the Mughal Emperor. The French diplomacy aimed at strengthening the Emperor's authority over his chiefs and vassals and later to consolidate forces with the ultimate object of making a joint attack on Bengal. This plan also envisaged the acquisition of Tatta from the Emperor for being used as a base for the French troops. Madec negotiated the cession of Tatta, but having waited in vain for positive response either from France or from Chevalier, he left for France in 1777. His departure marked a quick decline in the French diplomatic enterprises in Northern India. *Ibid.*, pp. 128-43.

